

Chancellor sees first signs of economic success

From Michael Hatfield
Political Reporter

Sir Geoffrey Howe, Chancellor of the Exchequer, yesterday hit back at Tory critics of his economic strategy in his first public speech since the Budget.

There seemed little doubt that he had so-called "wet" ministers in mind as well as backbenchers when he told the Conservative Central Council meeting in Cardiff: "We hear some of our colleagues saying that the policies on which we have been committed have been tried and seen to fail."

"Do they not understand that we were undertaking a task of reconstructing the economy? We have been going in this direction for years. So far as these policies being tried and failed, these policies are still in the early stages of their implementation. We are beginning to see the first signs of success."

The Government had always promised a long, hard slog and "that long slog is under way. We intend to keep at it with the help of this party and the people of this country. We are going to stick at it. We are going to see it through."

There were a number of proposals in the Budget aimed at encouraging those who were in the business of creating jobs.

Last year he had introduced the small business package, which would encourage people to set up new businesses and to develop existing ones. This year there was another instalment, the loan guarantee scheme, the business start-up scheme, and tax relief for the construction of small factories.

Together they would help a great deal. "We can truly claim that the tax climate for new enterprise is now as favourable in the United Kingdom as it is anywhere in the world."

Earlier Sir Geoffrey had heard a debate in which there were calls for deeper cuts in public expenditure. One critic, Lieutenant-Commander Noel Paulley, from Swansea, said it was difficult to reconcile the Government's policies in practice with its pre-election policies.

"This has happened before. Ten years ago the Conservative government was elected on a similar mandate to cut public spending, and jettisoned the policy when confronted with a steep rise in unemployment. That U-turn caused our party six years in opposition. Must history repeat itself?"

Another critic, Mr H. J. Simmons, said that if there was one criticism that people in the room could make it was that the Government had not yet gone far enough in cutting public expenditure. Spending ministers should do their job and cut spending, not increase it.

The meeting approved without dissent a motion stating the Government's deep concern "at the personal unhappiness and economic waste involved in the current extremely high level of unemployment, but believes that it can only be cut, and secure jobs created, if the Government continues its attack on inflation and public spending, and the nation as a whole achieves higher productivity and better services at all levels of economic activity."

Leader not essential, Dr Owen says

By Fred Emery
Political Editor

A Prime Minister would not be essential to running a Social Democratic government, which could be led collectively, with senior ministers taking turns to chair Cabinet meetings, Dr David Owen suggested yesterday.

Convention, however, would probably dictate that the SDP elected a leader, he added.

Dr Owen was speaking in Bristol as he and the other gang of four leaders continued their launching tour.

He echoed the point first made by Mr William Rodgers at the London launching that the present leaders liked their collective leadership, and that it was up to the party's members to decide who should be "their leader or leaders."

At Westminster the report was greeted with some laughter by MPs, although Conservatives of the wet tendency joked that it might be a good idea to start immediately with a rotating prime ministership.

Dr Owen, in comments later at a meeting in Oxford, suggested that the Liberals were "unable to grapple with tough issues". His attitude hardly smoothes the way for the discussions the Social Democrats are to have with the Liberals, seeking a common approach to policy and an electoral alliance.

Dr Owen said this week made clear he sees such a coalition as the only hope for achieving breakthrough at the next election.

Mrs Shirley Williams, speaking at Renfrew, outside Glasgow, stuck by the decision not to fix detailed policy before the party's members had a chance to take part. She explained that the process would probably take about a year, by which time a detailed policy programme would be put to all the members.

Meanwhile in a flood of speeches Labour and Conservative MPs revealed that they both have a lot to say in denigrating a party they profess to believe has no chance. The insults were studied but added to the publicity.

On the Tory side, Mr Tom King, Minister for Local Government, spoke in Manchester of "the great new dream machine."

Mrs Jill Knight, MP for Birmingham, Edgbaston, scoffed at the SDP's call for decentralization, saying that "tyrannies of the municipal mafia" in Lambeth, Sandwell and Bradford could, if reproduced, prove disastrous.

Mr Nicholas Winterton, MP for Macclesfield, jeered at the "simply divine party"; Mr George Galloway, MP for Renfrew, said the Social Democrats' offerings, far from a breath of fresh air, were "more like a stale burp". Mr Robert Rhodes James, MP for Cambridge, suggested, however, that the postwar political logjam may be breaking up.

On the Labour side, Mr John Silkin, shadow Leader of the House, distancing himself slightly from Mr Wedgwood Benn, said that to the Social Democrats the EEC "was beyond reason; it is a mystical experience; there is no point at which they could be induced to say 'enough'."

Mr Albert Booth, shadow Transport Secretary, disagreed with Mr Foot. "I do not share the view that such a grouping could win electoral support," he said in a speech at Blyden.

The Liberals meanwhile announced that they had gained four seats from Conservatives in by-elections in 13 boroughs and district councils on Thursday, making 20 net gains at that level since January.

Pious hope for the new party

By Our Religious Affairs Correspondent

Approval for the Social Democrats' new party among churchmen was so strong that it was tempting to speak of the Church of England as the Social Democrats at prayer.

The Church Times said in a leading article yesterday.

"With that adaptation of the old saying, 'the Church of England is the Conservative Party at prayer' it commends the 'Christian inspiration' of Dr David Owen and Mrs Shirley Williams, one an Anglican and the other a Roman Catholic, and adds that it makes them suitable allies for Mr David Steel the Liberal leader, 'who is very much a son of the manse'."

Tory MP to quit for business

By Our Political Editor

Sir John Eden, Conservative MP for Bournemouth, West, since 1954, announced last night that he would not stand again at the next election, but praised Mrs Margaret Thatcher for making sure that no one got the idea that he was losing faith.

Sir John, aged 55, and a former minister in the Heath government, told his local Conservative association that he intended to devote more time to his business commitments.

He said that although the task of revival was a long one "there are now more hopeful signs that the recession is coming to an end". He had a majority of 16,626 in 1979.

Powell attack on economic critics

By Our Political Staff

Deriding the "bad logic" he sees in current comment on the economy, Mr Enoch Powell last night defended the Government over the public sector borrowing requirement (PSBR), but suggested it had been a "tactical error" for the Treasury to publish sterling M3 targets for the money supply.

In a speech to the Leeds branch of the British Institute of Management, Mr Powell, Ulster Unionist MP for Down, South, insisted that the reason for the wide error in PSBR forecasts was simple.

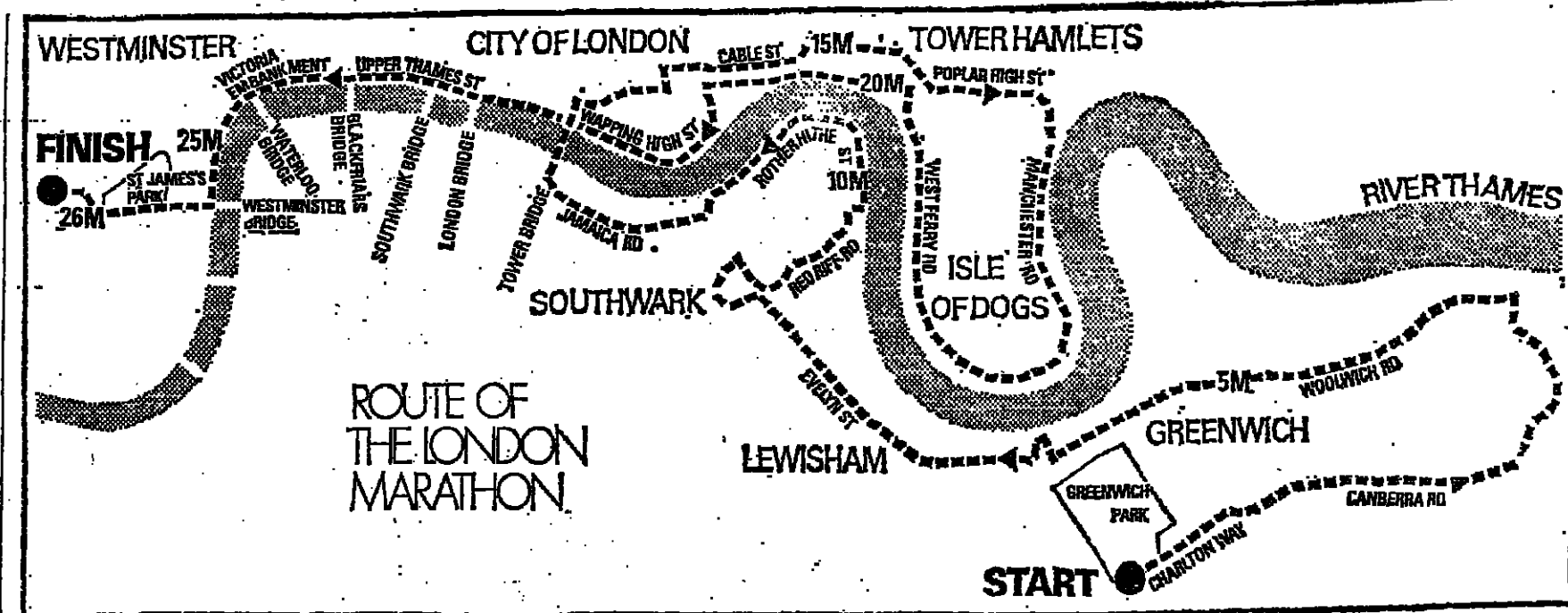
"The PSBR is a residual; it is the sum remaining to be borrowed after revenue has

been offset against expenditure, and if both those variables, revenue and expenditure, happen to go astray in opposite directions, the resultant error in the PSBR will be cumulative," he said.

Mr Powell wondered what the critics of the Chancellor for making so unreliable an estimate would do if they applied the same reasoning to profit, also a residual.

Mr Powell maintained that what the critics wanted was a higher borrowing requirement without saying as much.

They chose instead to ridicule the PSBR, saying that "it turned out double what we expected so what the hell if we double it again deliberately?" As if one were to say:



7,000 get ready for marathon

By Michael Coleman

The forecast light easterly winds tomorrow are likely to help the survivors of the 7,000 odd runners in the 26-mile London marathon, which starts at Greenwich Park.

The wind will be to their backs over the last painful six miles to Buckingham Palace from Wapping, past the Tower, Blackfriars, the Embankment,

Big Ben and into Constitution Hill

It is estimated that most of them will have dug deep into their reserves by the Cutty Sark (seven miles), be scraping the bottom by Tower Bridge (13 miles) and will have no recollection at all of the next six-mile loop through the Isle of Dogs.

Elsewhere, such big city marathons have been flourishing for a decade and more. In eight months, Christopher Brasher has achieved what organized athletics has failed to accomplish in 100 years.

He told the idea to Sir Horace Cutler, leader of the GLC, who had been impressed by the Avon Cosmetics women's marathon through London last

August (the field was a selected 200)

He went with Sir Horace to New York in October to watch the big race there and gather ideas, and then found his main sponsor, Gillette.

Ably backed by Mr John Disley, deputy chairman of the Sports Council, and by Mr Derrick Pollard, of the GLC, Mr Brasher has surmounted all the obstacles.

It is typical of the man who, in 1956, as a complete outsider, won the steeplechase gold medal at the Melbourne Olympics after he and Disley led the British team to the brink of a strike against the officials.

Since then Mr Brasher has felt driven by the desire to bring the public into sport, to

make participants out of spectators

He is not concerned about who wins. The focus will be on those at the back, with every finisher a winner.

That is not to say the Gillette is likely to be a slow race. Among the runners will be the American, Dick Beardsley, who recorded a time of 2hr 12min. 41sec recently; Inge Simonsen, of Norway (2:13:29); and a wealth of Britons, including John Graham (2:11:47 when third in New York).

On the flat course it will be fascinating to see how close they get to the world best time of 03:33.6, set by Derek Clayton, the Lancashire-born Australian, in Antwerp in May 1969.

More than 300 women have

entered, led by Joyce Smith, aged 43, who in November cut her best time to 2:30:27.

Another will be Gillian Adams, aged 35 (2:37:56), who is returning from New York to her Bromley home to take part in the race and marry an American marathon runner.

The much-revised Leslie Watson, who with media work and her physiotherapy practice, like Mr Brasher, to cram 48 hours into every day, will be out to improve on her 2:45:40 in New York.

Brasher himself, at the age of 52, will be trying to get close to three hours, a struggle for him but probably the easiest three hours he has spent in eight months.

Sportsview, page 12

How one man in Dundee helped to deliver a remarkably different style of socialism Labour fears swing to left Jews protest at flying of PLO flag in town

From Ronald Faux
Edinburgh

There is acute alarm within the Labour Party in Scotland about the direction in which Scottish socialism is heading.

Traditionally the party has stood firmly to the left of centre in Scotland but the influence of the new left wing and the Labour coordinating committee, which dominates the Scottish executive, is producing policies that could alienate the bedrock of support.

The man who is apt to be regarded as the eminence grise behind Scottish socialism is Mr George Galloway, chairman of the party in Scotland, party organizer in Dundee and a powerful left-winger.

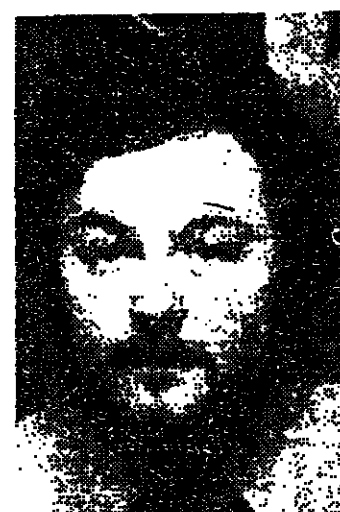
Since the party regained control of Dundee last May, Dundonians have found themselves ruled by a remarkably different style of socialism from what they had learnt to expect.

Almost immediately after the new group took over from the Tories, policy underwent a U-turn. Hospitality to Nato ships entering port was withdrawn. The council stoutly refused to sell any council houses even when ordered to do so by the Secretary of State for Scotland; and the rates rose by 150 per cent.

The council sought to light a beacon at the war memorial on Law Hill in memory of the Hiroshima dead, which outraged the Burns Club veterans and the Royal British Legion.

An emergency meeting was called to debate allegations that the Post Office radio group within the movement was being used to bug private telephone conversations.

Today a delegation from the council is to set off to the Middle East to strengthen the twinning partnership between Dundee and Nablus, a Palestinian Liberation Organization stronghold on the Israeli-occupied West Bank. The trip is being paid for by the Arab League and, as with all other liaisons with Palestine, is objected to by the city's Jewish community.



Mr George Galloway: A militant political line.

Publicly the Labour organization says that the coordinating committee is merely another group within the movement that can be accommodated under the broad banner of socialism. Privately, there is grave concern about the damage that could be inflicted by groups which put uncompromising revolutionary socialism above all else.

Some see it as a microcosm of what has happened elsewhere in the party and a vindication for the Social Democrats.

Mr Galloway views all this controversial action with a calm satisfaction. Things in Dundee are at last moving positively, he says, away from a ludicrously blinkered approach to politics.

At 26 he is the youngest chairman of the party in Scotland he ever had. He was born in Dundee, went to school in the city and worked on the production line of a tyre factory. After labouring jobs and eight months on the dole, he became the full-time Labour Party organizer in the city.

He explains: "In Dundee the council is completely at one with the local party. A split or a division is quite inconceivable. The political line is probably the most militant in Scotland, if not in Britain."

It is three years before the next district council election and it seems clear that Dundee can expect more revolutionary socialism, to the dismay of the Tory opposition.

By Clifford Longley
Religious Affairs Correspondent

Leaders of the British Jewish community have decided to make a national issue of the flying of a Palestinian Liberation Organization flag over Dundee town hall. It has already provoked displays of antisemitism in the city, they say, and disturbed a century of good relations between Jews and non-Jews.

Mr Greville Janner, MP for Leicester, West, and president of the Board of Deputies of British Jews, announced yesterday that a national petition to Parliament was being launched, a complaint was being made to the Scottish law officers, and he would be asking the national executive of the Labour Party to act.

He said the controlling Labour group on Dundee council had decided on Wednesday to fly the Jewish community about the flag, and about the "twinning" with the Palestinian town of Nablus.

Mr Janner, who was flanked by representatives of various national Jewish organizations, said it was impossible to be in favour of the PLO without being antisemitic, and antisemitism led to antisemitism. That has been demonstrated in Dundee, he said, by an outbreak of slogan-daubing on Jewish property since the twinning decision.

The latest and most blatant example was the defacing of the rear walls of the Dundee synagogue, discovered last weekend. Earlier the house of a Jewish cleric had the words "Hitler was right" scrawled on it. There had been other incidents of wall-daubing, including a swastika, but it was not established beyond doubt that these had been the intended targets.

The defacing of the walls of the synagogue also included swastikas and symbols representing extreme right-wing movements. Both the letters "IRA" and "UDA" appear, as well as references to several football teams. There are no words or phrases of an anti-Jewish nature, though the whole impact, displayed on a large photograph at the press conference, is shocking.

Mr Janner said it was not suggested that the Labour Party in Dundee was antisemitic, but "what you stir up does it settles everywhere". The flying of the PLO flag and the twinning with Nablus had been provocative acts and the indirect cause of the defacement of Jewish property.

"To regard the hanging of the flag and other incidents as unconnected is a form of self-induced blindness of the worst kind," he added. Representatives of Dundee council had seen the daubing on the synagogue wall, and expressed their personal revulsion to him. But the Labour group had since reaffirmed its commitment to the Nablus twinning and to sympathy with the cause of the PLO.

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New move possible in civil servants' dispute

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

The Government is considering a fresh move to break the deadlock in the three-week-old strike campaign by civil servants over pay and wage determination machinery. Heathrow airport will be affected again this weekend by industrial action among immigration staff.

Lord Soames, Minister for the Civil Service, is expected soon to seek a meeting with leaders of the Council of Civil Service Unions aimed at finding a settlement to the dispute, which has cut off state revenue, disrupted military establishments and hampered trade.

But the Cabinet is unlikely to go further than suggesting a redistribution of the 7 per cent already rejected by the unions, together with vague proposals for a new wage comparison system to replace the suspended pay research unit.

Mr William Kendall, the council's general secretary, insisted last night that no offer of talks had been made. The unions would not sit down with

Lord Soames unless there was "something positive on the table".

His comments came after tens of thousands of civil servants walked out of their offices yesterday for half-day protest strikes over the threatened suspension of 29 staff in the Department of Customs and Excise.

The unions say there will be only a skeleton staff of immigration officers, at Heathrow and elsewhere, and long delays were predicted.

The sudden, if only temporary, increase in strike action yesterday followed a familiar pattern. Where suspensions are threatened other civil servants walk out in large numbers.

Mr Manchester area was particularly badly affected, with about 25,000 people stopping work.

The Department of Health and Social Security offices, unemployment benefit offices and job centres were closed down in Birmingham and the West Midlands. The unions reported that up to 10,000 members in East Anglia went home at 3 pm.

Mr Pincher speaks of leak inquiry

Continued from page 1

and senior member of the intelligence community told *The Times* he considered that there had been a leak from within M15 on Sir Roger.

Yesterday Mr Pincher said the leak was based on many sources, but many were "phantoms" if they looked for someone who had provided one large leak.

Leaks which had produced important stories had always been a fact of life and there had been an inquiry after his last book, he said. When he printed details of a defence review in 1976 there was an inquiry but they never found anything.

In previous investigations he had never been interviewed by M15 although he had been called in twice to see a senior civil servant and told in the circumstances that it was his duty to reveal his sources.

Mrs Thatcher told the Commons on Thursday that the Security Commission will examine the need to tighten up defences against Soviet infiltration of the Civil Service.

On Thursday it was revealed that the examination will be undertaken by Lord Diplock, head of the commission, and members of the other six members. *Statement welcomed.*

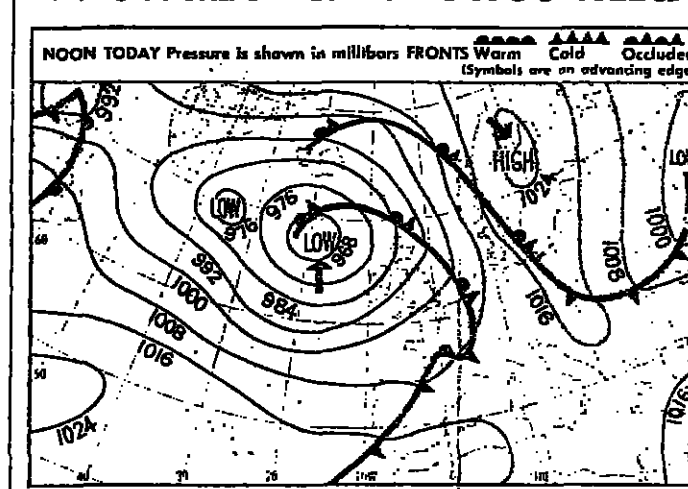
Sir Roger's son said yesterday that he always knew his father was innocent (our Oxford Correspondent writes).

"I never had any doubts that my father was completely innocent," Mr Adrian Hollis, a classics tutor at Keble College, Oxford, said outside his home in Oxford.

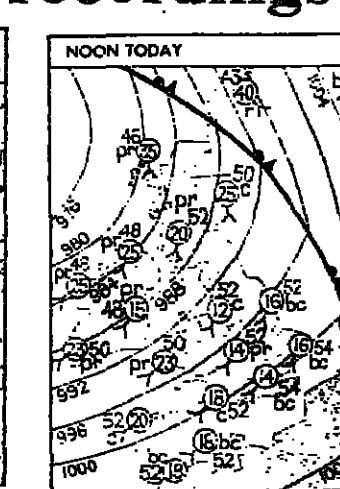
He added that the Prime Minister's statement clearing his father had come as great relief. "I really do not want to talk about it. What I can say is that I am very pleased indeed that the Prime Minister's full statement was made. It has been a very trying time for my son and we have been under great pressure. Now we just want to forget about it."

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Weather forecast and recordings



Today	Sun rises: 5.46 am		Sun sets: 6.27 pm		Moon rises: 1.24 am		Moon sets: 9.59 am	
Last Quarter: 7.34 pm.								
Lighting up: 6.57 pm to 6.13 am BST.								
High water: London Bridge, 6.14 am, 6.11m; 6.32 pm, 6.11m. Avonmouth, 11.05 am, 10.3, 11.34 pm, 10.0m. Dover, 2.36m, 5.5m; 3.31 pm, 5.3m. Hull, 10.38 am, 6.0m; 11.11 pm, 5.8m. Liverpool, 3.31 am, 7.6m; 3.55 pm, 7.3m.								
Tomorrow	Sun rises: 5.43 am		Sun sets: 6.29 pm		Moon rises: 3.18 am		Moon sets: 11.49 am	
British Summer Time begins 2 a.m.								
New moon: April 4.								
Lighting up: 7.29 pm to 5.11 a.m.								
High water: London Bridge, 8.02 am, 5.38 am, 8.21 pm, 5.38 am, Avonmouth, 1.03 pm, 9.7m. Dover, 4.4 am, 5.2m; 5.44 pm, 5.0m. Hull, 12.36 pm, 5.7m; 11.34 pm, 5.33 am, 7.2m; 6.07 pm, 7.6m. 11.6 am, 3.28pm.								



with sunny periods; temp near normal.

Sea passages: S North Sea, Straits of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind mainly S, fresh or strong, decreasing to moderate; sea moderate or rough, becoming slight.

St George's Channel, Irish Sea: Wind S to SW, strong or gale, decreasing to fresh or strong; sea strong or very rough, becoming mainly moderate.

Yesterday

London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity: 6 pm, 55 per cent. Rain, 24 to 6 pm, 0.1 in. Sun: 6 am to 6 pm, 3.7 hr. Max. mean sea level, 6 pm, 1.004.0 millibars falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.53 in.

Overseas selling prices

Australia: 2.25, Canada: 2.25, Hong Kong: 2.25, India: 2.25, Japan: 2.25, New Zealand: 2.25, Singapore: 2.25, South Africa: 2.25, Sweden: 2.25, Switzerland: 2.25, Taiwan: 2.25, Thailand: 2.25, USA: 2.25, West Germany: 2.25, Yugoslavia: 2.25.

12 years for man who used girl as shield

Report says action by social workers might have saved baby

By Pat Hasty
Social Services Correspondent

Positive action might have saved the life of Malcolm Page, who died, aged 13 months, of hypothermia and malnutrition according to the report of a review committee last year.

But strong indications that the boy's parents could not cope with him and four children did not lead to the necessary critical examination of the case, the report said.

Instead a case conference intended by nursing, police, social work and social work representatives left the social worker to continue as before in spite of strong signs that the treatment of the family was failing.

Eighteen months later, when a detective chief inspector visited the family home in Tilbury after the boy's death, beds were found soaked in urine and excrement was found in bedclothes and on floors.

The boy's parents were convicted of wilful neglect and sentenced to 12 months imprisonment. The report made clear that it was not seeking to lay blame on the boy's death, but to draw lessons to avoid similar tragedies.

"There were, however, enough indications of the conditions in the house and of the lack of competent care that the parents have justified a high level of concern that the children were being emotionally and physically neglected, including a lack of adequate nutrition for Malcolm."

Malcolm Page, the youngest of four children, was born on December 27, 1977, but despite frequent attempts the health visitor did not see him until

March 7, 1978. She was allowed into the living room, where she was "horrified at what she found."

The room was squalid and there was a foul smell, the children had matted hair and were chubby.

Subsequently the family were given a home help after the bedrooms had been found to be in a disgusting condition. But although some improvements were made, all four children were taken into care the next month.

Three months later the children were returned home, still under care orders, after improvements had been made at the home. Conditions deteriorated again and the previous pattern of lack of cooperation with the home help continued.

But a case conference held in August, 1978, decided to leave the situation as it was, with increased home help. The case then drifted. In September, 1978, the social worker visited and found the living room fairly clean and tidy, but upstairs smelling pungently. Malcolm Page was in bed and his clothing and bedding were wet with urine.

No action was taken to remedy the situation. In November, 1978, a fourth case conference on the Page family was called, but only three people attended and there was a lack of analysis of information available.

Malcolm Page was taken to hospital on February 6, 1979, and died the next day. The panel concluded that the boy suffered from lack of nourishment over a period of weeks, followed by a period of acute malnutrition coupled with a decline in standards of care, which were already minimal.

Malcolm Page, report by the Panel appointed by the Essex Review Committee (County Hall, Chelmsford, Essex).

Mr Biggs fails to obtain his release

By Frances Gibb

Two Scotland Yard detectives (New to Bridgetown, Barbados) last night after magistrates at the South Western Court in London had signed a warrant for the extradition of Ronald Biggs, the fugitive train robber.

Det Inspector Edward Ellison and Det Constable Bernard Brown had been sent to advise the Barbados police on the extradition proceedings. Scotland Yard said. Meanwhile the warrant and other documents were sent by the Director of Public Prosecutions to the Home Office for forwarding to Barbados.

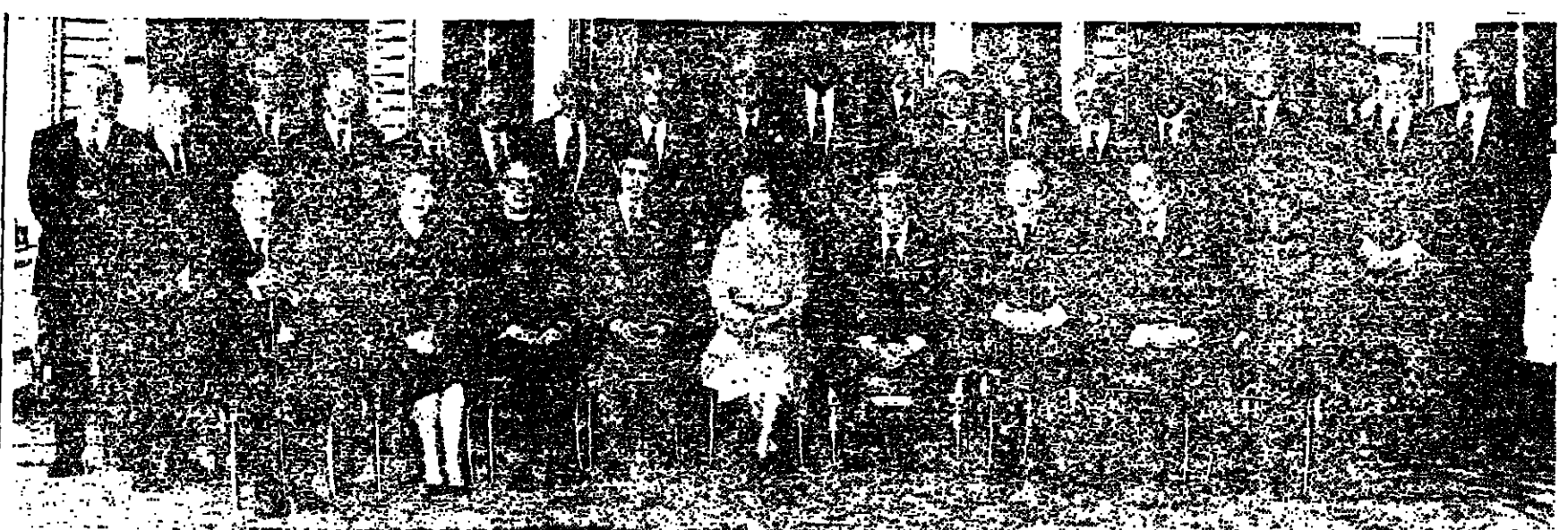
The Barbados High Court yesterday rejected Mr Biggs's plea of habeas corpus. Acting Chief Justice Denys Williams said the island's chief immigration officer was acting under statutory provisions. It had not been shown that he was acting in bad faith or otherwise improperly in detaining Mr Biggs. The immigration authorities had ordered him to be held because he did not have a passport.

Mr Biggs was taken after the court hearing to the police headquarters in Bridgetown, where he is staying in a room for sergeants. "He is not exactly in jail, but he is not exactly free," the police said.

A legal wrangle may now ensue, as the Brazilian authorities also want Mr Biggs's return and the Brazilian charge d'affaires on Thursday put his country's request before Mr M. G. Adams, the Prime Minister of Barbados.

The man said to have masterminded the kidnap of Mr Biggs, Mr John Miller, aged 35, a director of a security firm, was arrested at Heathrow airport, London, yesterday when he arrived from Barbados.

He had failed to appear at Marlborough Street Magistrates' Court on Wednesday to answer charges of assault and causing an affray.



The Queen sitting with her Privy Council

After a visit to Cheltenham during which Lady Diana Spencer received a loyal greeting from the lips of a young admirer, the Queen yesterday gave her formal consent to the marriage of the Prince of Wales to Lady Diana (a Staff Reporter writes). Her consent was required under the Royal Marriages Act, 1772, and after it had been given at a meeting of the Privy Council at Buckingham Palace the Queen posed for her first official photographs with the Prince and Lady Diana in the music room of the palace. For the first time photographers were also allowed to take pictures of the council.

The Prince and Lady Diana flew to the palace from Cheltenham, where they were making their second official appearance together on a visit to the headquarters of the Gloucestershire police who guard Highgrove House, which will be their home. Their helicopter landed and took off from the grounds of Dean Close School, where Nicholas Hardy, aged 18, from Slad, near Stroud, a school prefect, offered Lady Diana a daffodil

and asked: "May I kiss the hand of my future queen?" Lady Diana assented and the schoolboy leaned over the rope barrier, clasped her right hand and kissed it, to the cheers of his colleagues. Blushing and laughing, Lady Diana told him: "You will never live this down."

The Prince leaves tomorrow for a tour of New Zealand, Australia, Venezuela and the United States. Lady Diana will not be accompanying him. Buckingham Palace announced yesterday that on the advice of Mr Malcolm Fraser, Prime Minister of Australia, the Prince is to become a Knight of the Order of Australia. During his stay in the country he will receive the insignia of the order from Sir Zelman Cowen, the Governor-General.

Back row, from left: Sir Neville Leigh, clerk of the council; Lord Adams; Mr Nicholas Edwards, Secretary of State for Wales; Lord Chatteris of Amisfield; Sir Harold Wilson, former Prime Minister; Lord Macdonald, the Lord Chamberlain; Mr Michael Foot, Leader of the Opposition;

Lord Home of the Hirsel; Mr William Whitelaw, the Home Secretary; Ratu Sir Kamisese Mara, Prime Minister of Fiji; Sir Ian Gilmour, Lord Privy Seal; Mr David Steel, leader of the Liberal Party; Mr Humphrey Atkins, Secretary of State for Northern Ireland; Mr Donald Stewart, leader of the Parliamentary Scottish Nationalist Party; Mr Milton Cato, Prime Minister of St Vincent and the Grenadines; Mr Douglas Anthony, Deputy Prime Minister of Australia; Sir William Douglas, Chief Justice of Barbados; Sir Philip Moore, Private Secretary to the Queen; Mr David Thomson, Minister of State and Leader of the House of Representatives, New Zealand.

Front row: Mr Harold Macmillan, former Prime Minister; Mrs Margaret Thatcher, Prime Minister; the Archbishop of Canterbury, Dr Robert Runcie; the Prince of Wales; the Queen; Lord Soames, Lord President of the Council; Lord Hailsham of St Marylebone; Mr George Thomas, Speaker of the House of Commons; and Dr Sir Seewoosagur Ramgoolam, Prime Minister of Mauritius.

Murdoch letter over choice of editors

By a Staff Reporter

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, yesterday rejected a letter from Mr Rupert Murdoch outlining the steps taken in the appointment of new editors for *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*.

It also gives details of the appointment and approval of two new independent national directors, Sir Denis Hamilton and Sir Edward Pickering, to the board of Times Newspaper Holdings Ltd.

Mr Murdoch's letter was sent to the Secretary of State in February after Mr Phillip Whitehead, Labour MP for Derby, North, had asked whether the independent national directors had been appointed directly by Mr Murdoch without consultation with or prior warning to the existing national directors.

The MP asked whether the independent national directors considered the preferences expressed internally for the editorship of *The Times* between three candidates, of whom Mr Harold Evans was one.

In a long and detailed letter to Mr Biffen, Mr Murdoch says the board of Times Newspapers unanimously agreed to the appointment of Mr Evans, as well as that of Mr Frank Giles as Editor of *The Sunday Times*, and that "at least 12 persons were consulted as candidates before these decisions were made."

It would have been theoretically possible to follow the required procedures in relation to the appointment of the two editors within the then existing board structure, he says.

But he was advised, and it was his own opinion, that because of the significance attached to the guarantees of editorial independence, it would have been wrong to proceed with the appointments without

first having constituted the board with a membership required by the amended articles of association.

The appointment of a working journalist from each of the newspapers, although formally nominated by the major shareholder, had to be approved in advance by the respective editors.

Mr Louis Heren, deputy editor of *The Times*, and Mr Robert Munn, managing editor of *The Sunday Times*, were approved and their election was put to the board of Times Newspaper Holdings Ltd, "which unanimously resolved in favour of their appointment."

Mr Murdoch's letter adds that the nomination of independent national directors, although a matter for the major shareholder, requires the approval of the other independent national directors. The nominations of both Sir Denis Hamilton and Sir Edward Pickering were placed before the other independent national directors meeting privately.

"It was stated expressly to them that if any reservations as to the suitability of the nominations of either of them were entertained or if they would like to defer the decision for any period (and ultimately reject one or both of them) they were, of course, at liberty to do so."

His letter says: "After discussion amongst them, they informed me that they agreed unanimously to both nominations."

Subsequently, both the Board of TNHL as a whole, and the independent national directors meeting separately, approved the appointments of the two editors. The board was informed that under the articles the board had both the right to reject either or both nominations and the right in either or both cases to propose for TNHL's consideration another person or persons.

Local papers said, page 17

East-West doctors call for nuclear war ban

By Pearce Wright
Science Editor

A declaration against nuclear weapons was issued yesterday by 80 eminent doctors and scientists from 11 countries after the first conference of the International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War.

The document, addressed to President Reagan and Mr Leonid Brezhnev, included among its signatories Professor Eugene Chasov, who is the Soviet leader's cardiologist. He was the leader of a Soviet delegation to the conference, held near Washington.

On arriving back in London yesterday Dr Leonid Fielding, one of the founders three months ago in Britain of the Medical Campaign against Nuclear Weapons, said the protest was an unprecedented international action by the medical profession.

He said physicians must work toward the prevention of nuclear weapons. Whatever anybody thought of war or whatever the use of nuclear weapons could no longer be considered, Dr Fielding said.

The message to Mr Reagan and Mr Brezhnev said: "We have for the past several days reviewed the data on the nature and magnitude of the effects that the use of nuclear weapons would bring. We have considered independently prepared medical and scientific analysis from many sources. Our conclusions are unanimous."

Dr Fielding said a four-day conference examined evidence of immediate death from nuclear war, the consequences of disruption for the health and medical services and other vital supplies, and the long-term effects of genetic damage.

Although the consequences of the attack on Hiroshima and Nagasaki were disastrous, even they were not adequate precedents for the destruction that would follow nuclear warfare today. It was imperative to distinguish between immediate and delayed effects.

The conclusions are:

1. Nuclear war would be a catastrophe with medical consequences of enormous magnitude and duration for both involved and uninvolved nations;
2. The holocaust would in its beginning kill tens to hundreds of millions of people. Most of the immediate survivors, suffering from wounds and burns inflicted by nuclear radiation, deprived of effective medical care or even food and water, would face the prospect of a slow and excruciating death;
3. The consequences of nuclear war would continue to affect succeeding generations and their environment for an indefinite period.

The message concludes: "Science and technology have placed the most deadly weapons of mass destruction in the hands of the two nations you lead. This huge accumulation imperils us all. The interests of the present and all future generations require that nuclear war must be avoided."

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Royal Opera to visit Manchester

By Martin Huckerby
Music Reporter

The Royal Opera's visit to Manchester in May will go ahead, it was announced yesterday by the Palace Theatre, Manchester, after talks with local councils about finding extra finance. But another difficulty has occurred: three special bells needed for the performance have been stolen from Covent Garden.

The theatre said the visit could go ahead because the local council, the Greater Manchester City and Greater Manchester Councils had agreed to hold urgent talks with the Royal Opera and the Arts Council about financing the visit by the opera and by the Royal Ballet.

While the theatre did not give details of the agreement, the Arts Council understood that assurances had been given that an extra £25,000 would be found from local resources. The visit was put in question because the opera company estimated a £30,000 deficit. The Greater Manchester Council, but was offered only £5,000.

The bells, one of which weighs nearly two hundredweight, were stolen from the scenery store in the Floral Hall, Theatre Royal, Manchester, in old and valued at about £10,000, and were made specially to blend with the music in particular operas. The two Tosca bells were cast in Italy to simulate the sound of the church bells of Santa Andrea della Valle in Rome.

Floating ideas to breathe life into Old Father Thames

London's empty river highway

By John Young
Planning Reporter

A great highway runs through the heart of London. Long stretches of it are virtually empty of traffic, and for much of its length it is inaccessible. It is called the River Thames.

The neglect of the capital's greatest natural asset, central to its whole history and one of the principal reasons for its very existence, is the theme of a weekend conference which began last night at the Iffs Evans all of University College London.

The speakers are examining by London, almost alone among European cities with similar advantages, makes negligible use of them. They are also considering the whole complex waterways which were built to carry passengers and goods, and which now lie forgotten and silted.

The Inland Waterways Association, which has organized the conference, has repeatedly pointed to the economic and environmental advantages of waterborne transport for the carriage of bulk cargoes. But its arguments have been met with lack of interest on the part of successive governments, which have starved the waterways of maintenance funds and money for improvement and expansion.

The Thames does not have to be maintained in the way that canals do. Nevertheless, it has lost almost all its commercial traffic in the past 20 years, a fact which Mr Michael West, the association's South-East Regional chairman, attributes to the closure of most of the docks and the disappearance of the narrowboats that could be used to carry cargoes inland on the canals.

"Of course we are not advocating the return of the narrowboats," Mr West says. "But we do say that, as in other parts of Europe, there is a role for widened and improved waterways." As for passenger traffic, he feels that experiments have shown that Londoners are not interested in commuting to work by water. But there could and should be many more pleasure boats.

At present boatowners are deterred by the shabby appearance of much of London's waterfront, and by the fact that Mr West finds it astonishing that so many disused riverside buildings should be left derelict, instead of being converted to new uses, and that large canal basins like that at Paddington, are deserted when there is a shortage of moorings in South-East England. "It would not happen in any other country," he observes.

Times' bribe allegation by accused former detective

om Michael Horsnell
Middlesex

Former Det Chief Supt William Moody, the disgraced head of Scotland Yard's obscene publication squad, was accused yesterday by another former Scotland Yard officer, a late Lord Thomson of Fleet, of *The Times*, when the newspaper was investigating corruption in the Metropolitan Police.

The allegation was made at the Crown Court while Moody, who is serving a 12-month sentence for conspiracy of corruption, was giving evidence in the police corruption case at Middlesex.

Mr Moody told former Det Supt John Symonds that he had the Scotland Yard investigation into allegations by *The Times* against officers including Symonds.

It was then that the allegation about Lord Thomson was made by Mr Symonds, aged 40, who denies three charges according to a total of £150 in a young criminal in 1969.

in return for providing assistance over an arrest. Mr Symonds, who is defending himself, was severely reprimanded by Judge Angus Stevenson. Q for making a number of "wholly improper allegations" to Mr Moody without the support of evidence.

Mr Symonds told Mr Moody: "I suggest you concocted much of the evidence which has been before this court in return for the payment of a bribe from the owner of *The Times* newspaper."

Mr Moody, who was brought to court from Durham prison and tendered by the prosecution for cross-examination by Mr Symonds, replied: "No."

Mr Symonds, who the prosecution alleges fled the country in 1972 shortly before his trial for conspiracy, had last year suggested that Mr Moody was himself a corrupt officer at the time he was investigating *The Times* allegations.

Mr Moody: "I deny that, but I was convicted."

House prices boom is predicted

By Margaret Stone

House prices may be rising quite sharply by the end of the year, Sir Victor Achworth, chairman of the Nationwide Building Society, said at the society's annual meeting.

That is a much firmer prediction than most of Sir Herbert's fellow building society chairmen have been making.

The Nationwide's stand is based on the fact that three of the classic ingredients for a house price boom appear to be either present or imminent.

Real wages (for those in employment) are rising; inflation is receding; and the recession, according to the Government, is bottoming out.

They factor into the prospects of further cuts in the mortgage interest rates later in the year, could raise confidence and stimulate demand. "Consequently," Sir Herbert said, "1981 could turn out to be a much better year for the housing market."

Most of the offences were understood to have taken place while the men were ashore in Portsmouth. Homosexual acts are illegal for members of the Forces.

Another rating was cleared and no decision was taken on what action is appropriate in the case of an eleven man.

The nine were found guilty of charges under the Naval Disciplinary Act and/or the Sexual Offences Act. All 11 had opted for summary trial and appeared before Commander Michael Nelson, the master of HMS Nelson, the Royal Navy's barracks at Portsmouth.

Details of the men were not released by the Royal Navy. No indication of whether a homosexual offence has been sentenced to more than 90 days in the last decade.

Local papers said, page 17

Royal yacht sailors jailed

Nine sailors from the royal yacht Britannia who were convicted of homosexual acts were sentenced yesterday to terms of detention of between 48 and 90 days and dismissed the service.

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Tory MP calls for elected House of Lords

By Our Political Staff

A call to consider an elected second Chamber, a reduction in the Commons from 625 MPs to 400 and extending the life of a Parliament from five to seven years was made last night by Mr John Peyton, Conservative MP for Yeovil and a minister.

In a speech in his constituency of some disillusionment with the way Parliament functions and the lack of a coherent government approach to industry, Mr Peyton criticized "publicly-hungry committees" in the Commons whose effect on governments "is to make them worse."

Regarding the alternating attitudes of successive governments towards industry, Mr Peyton, while praising Mrs Margaret Thatcher, made an indirect attack on the way the Government and the Civil Service dealt with it.

Mr Peyton, after criticizing the unions and the striking civil servants said: "What we require is not a frail and short-lived consensus... but a new measure of understanding and determination among the moderates."

Animal ban to stay

Restrictions on animal movements in the 1,000 square miles in Hampshire, Dorset and the Isle of Wight cordoned to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease will remain in force for at least another nine days. Up to last night there had been no more outbreaks.

Wheelchair death

Police were yesterday investigating a fire at the home in Stoke Mandeville, Buckinghamshire, of Mr James Haig, aged 25, a member of Exit, the euthanasia group. The body of a man in a wheelchair was discovered in the house.

Detention centre theft

Thieves have broken into the "short, sharp, shock" detention centre at Sand, Surrey. They stole £200 in cash, a television set, a cassette player, cigarettes and spirits.

Ching-Ching returns

Ching-Ching, London Zoo's giant panda, was back on view yesterday after two weeks in the zoo's hospital. She is eating well again and has regained some weight.

Three oil companies raise price of petrol by 4p

By John Huxley

Pump prices of Shell, BP and National petrol will go up by an average of 4p a gallon from midnight tomorrow. The companies said yesterday that the increases were not sufficient to cover costs and that further rises were likely.

Earlier this week Esso, which shares leadership of the British petrol market with Shell, and Mobil announced increases of only 2p a gallon. It is possible that they will soon announce a further rise.

Both Shell and BP, which markets National petrol, are raising the price at which they supply dealers and reducing the competitive allowances, or "temporary sales rebate", available to them. The effect will be to push prices up to a gallon of 151p and 157p a gallon for four star.

Last year the United Kingdom arm of Royal Dutch/Shell made profits after tax of £373m, but it has been showing a loss of an estimated 4p to 5p a gallon on its products in recent months. BP lost £73m on its United Kingdom refining and marketing operations in 1980.

Each company is also increasing the price of its fuel oil by about 3p a gallon in a move which adds to the burden of rising energy costs being borne by industry.

BP explained last night that it is now disadvantaged by not having access to crude oil from Saudi Arabia. The cost of the disadvantage is put at about \$4 a barrel.

Despite the raising of prices, which comes on top of the 20p a gallon increase in duty announced in the Budget, the petrol market remains fiercely competitive.

Observers are by no means sure that the increases announced this week will stick, especially in the North of England, where price cutting has been most intense. There the big oil companies are providing most support for dealers in the form of competitive allowances.

The latest increases mean that prices have doubled in the past three years and have risen by almost 30 per cent since the beginning of this year. Shell added yesterday that losses could not continue if cash was to be found for continuing North Sea development. That had been affected by the supplementary petroleum duty announced in the Budget.

x-PC jailed for reventing

oman's burial

Peter Swindell was cleared today of the manslaughter of a prostitute but was jailed five years for preventing burial by dismembering her body and dumping it in Epping forest, Essex. He had admitted that offence.

The jury at the Central Criminal Court took five hours to reach its verdict clearing Mr Swindell, a former Metropolitan policeman, of unlawfully killing Miss Pat Malone, aged 22, his home in Walthamstow, London.

Justice Paine said: "It is particularly serious, as it was committed by a member of the police force, who was better than anyone of the reason why the prevention of a dead body is an offence."

The prosecution had alleged that Mr Swindell's bizarre obsession with bondage and death caused Miss Malone's death. It was suggested that she had been smothered in a tight-fitting mask during abnormal sexual acts.

But Mr Swindell denied that he killed her.

A sport for both brain and brawn

Life and leisure

Ronald Faux

checkpoints in the shortest possible time. They set off at one-minute intervals, not necessarily on the same course, so there is no point in following the man in front.

The orienteer must use every slight piece of information on the map to his advantage, each small stream, landmark, change in terrain and contour, to plan the quickest way around the course. He has to think very quickly, because sometimes a detour may be the quickest way to a particular checkpoint, and that decision has to be made from one glance at the map. I was told.

The main orienteering event in Britain is named after the late Jan Kjellstrom, who helped to introduce the sport to Britain. This year it takes place over four days in Easter on Cannock Chase, Staffordshire.

Mr Mason said there were 150 affiliated clubs in Britain which were divided into 12 regions. Many schools had shown interest

in the sport, although unlike in Scandinavia it was not a part of the curriculum. "We have hopes because there is a lot of value in terms of geography, exercise and understanding maps. It is equally physical and mental," he said.

Orienteering is not expensive. Membership of the movement, including federation and local clubs' costs, is between £8 and £10 a year. All that is needed is a track suit, running shoes and a good compass. The British federation at 41 Dale Road, Matlock, Derbyshire, will put inquiries in touch with their nearest club.

Britain produces some first-class orienteering talent and is reckoned to be second only to Scandinavia. British orienteers won the Continental Cup competition near Paris last year and the British champion, Chris Hirst, is an Army captain from Yorkshire.

Leading British orienteers include Glen Grant, a four-minute mile and Squadron Leader Geoff Peck, an RAF pilot, both of whom competed in the New York Marathon. Other British sportsmen who have competed from time to time include John Disley, Christopher Brasher and Dr Roger Bannister.

Solicitor says standards in court slipping

A finishing school for solicitors where untidy dressers and legal windbags can be taught "certain social graces" before they are allowed to practise in court was called for yesterday in the *Solicitors Journal*.

There has been a marked decline in the standards of solicitors for some years, according to an article in the magazine. "Evidence of poor work presents itself daily," the author, Mr Stanley Best, a West Country solicitor, wrote.

Mr Best, who practises at Torrington, Cornwall, gives some of his colleagues a wiggling for turning up at court badly dressed and for addressing courts without really knowing what they are talking about.

'Observer' deal is referred

Mr John Biffen, Secretary of State for Trade, has formally referred Lonrho's planned purchase of *The Observer* to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission.

Mr Roland (Tiny) Rowland, Lonrho's chief executive, earlier abandoned his plan to buy a personal share in the paper from the American owners, Atlantic Richfield.

Publisher for supplements

Mr Ian Trafford is to become publisher of the three supplements of *The Times* next month. Mr Trafford, managing director of *The Economist*, will also be deputy chairman of Times Books, Mr Rupert Murdoch, chairman of Times Newspapers, announced yesterday.

Washington sounds alarm on Poland

From David Cross

Washington, March 27

President Reagan and his senior foreign policy advisers are continuing to sound loud alarms about possible Soviet intervention in Poland in the very near future.

In a series of separate meetings with reporters here, leaders of the Administration emphasised that the situation in that country was in the words of President Reagan last night "very serious and very tense".

Mr Alexander Haig, the Secretary of State, said that Washington was watching developments in and around Poland "moment by moment". An invasion by Soviet troops was "not necessarily inevitable, although clearly the tensions today are far more worrisome than earlier in the month."

The Secretary of State said that concern about Poland had been raised significantly by a number of factors, including today's four-hour national strike by Polish workers, an apparent split between hardliners and moderates in the Polish Communist Party over how to deal with the labour unrest, and the extension of Warsaw Pact military exercises in and around Poland for the next week at least.

Voicing similar fears, Mr Edwin Meese, White House Counselor to the President, told a television interviewer today that if Soviet troops moved into Poland, it would be a very serious threat to world peace.

Reinforcing this warning, Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary, told reporters that an invasion would end any possibility of arms control talks between Washington and Moscow of all types and at all levels of discussion.

The Defence Secretary said that Washington had expected the military manoeuvres by the Warsaw Pact nations to end the day, but their extension, perhaps indefinitely, was a source of serious concern to the Administration here.

Late this afternoon members of the Senate joined the chorus of warnings to Moscow. A resolution approved unanimously by the 96 members of the Senate present at the time said Soviet intervention in Poland would violate existing international law and would have grave consequences for East-West relations.

These warnings followed the publication late yesterday afternoon of a five-paragraph White House statement in Mr Reagan's name stating categorically that the United States had "with growing concern indications that Polish authorities may be preparing to use force to deal with continuing differences in that country between the authorities and labour unions."

It added: "We are similarly concerned that the Soviet Union may intend to undertake repressive action in Poland."

According to well-informed officials here, the American Ambassador in Warsaw was summoned to the Foreign Ministry earlier this week and told that the situation in Poland was extremely tense.



Faces in the front line. Polish steel workers listen intently to Mr Lech Walesa yesterday at a rally near Warsaw.

The ambassador was told of Poland's dire economic problems and asked to urge Washington not to do anything which might inflame the situation unnecessarily.

Yesterday's White House statement sought to do just that. It reiterated Washington's belief that Poland should be allowed to resolve its own problems without outside intervention of any kind; it welcomed past assurances by the Polish government and trade unions that they intended to resolve their differences peacefully and in a spirit of "compromise and conciliation"; and it emphasized Washington's continuing readiness to assist Poland in its present economic and financial troubles.

In the context of economic and financial assistance, the statement also referred specifically to a visit to Washington next week by Mr Mieczyslaw Jaskielc, Polish Deputy Prime Minister. Talks already scheduled for next Thursday and Friday with officials here are designed to discuss possible American economic assistance. The United States has already deferred the payment of some \$80m owed to it and is considering longer-term aid.

While the Administration continues to monitor events in and around Poland, officials will be watching a number of forthcoming events with particular vigilance. On Sunday the central committee of the Polish Communist Party is due to meet in Warsaw. On Monday the Polish Parliament is due to hold a session reviewing developments in the country, and on Tuesday the national strike of Polish workers is due to get underway.

The officials fear that the strike could provoke a violent confrontation between the workers and the Polish forces of law and order. If the Polish authorities fail to bring the violence under control swiftly, then the Soviet Union might argue that it had no other choice but to send in its troops, the officials believe.

Paris: The Western allies have agreed on steps they would take if the Soviet Union intervened in Poland, Mr Jean Francois-Poncet, the French Foreign Minister, has told the Senate foreign committee.

During last night's hearing he said: "There is an agreement among the Western powers on measures to be taken in the event of an outside intervention in Poland." He did not disclose the plan but said France would take economic sanctions.

Hanover: Herr Hans Apel, the West German Defence Minister, said today the Polish situation was not a military challenge to the West. In a radio interview, he said the operational area of Nato ended at the East-West German frontier.

"That means, in substance, we look at the whole situation with great concern," he said, "but it is not a military challenge to Nato. It is rather a political question to be considered here now, and must be dealt with in this framework," he said.

He said he had discussed Poland in talks in Washington earlier this week, which included discussions with Mr Casper Weinberger, the Defence Secretary.—UPI and Reuter.

had been flooded with anti-communist literature which was as far as threatening to murder party officials.

The newspaper also reprinted a commentary from the Hungarian daily Magyar Hirlap which said Solidarity's rise to power revealed the real political aims of the union "and of the counter-revolutionary forces hidden within it."

Prague: A Czechoslovak trade union newspaper alleged that Solidarity was organizing in West Germany, an allegation made yesterday by Neues Deutschland.

The Czechoslovak paper Prace said that during the Nazi occupation of Poland millions of people had been killed. "Every Pole must therefore be deeply angered that Solidarity leaders associate with the successors of those who have on their conscience the suffering of the Polish nation during the war."

This proved that Solidarity representatives were prepared to unite with Poland's worst enemies in a campaign against socialism, the paper added.

Bucharest: Romanian newspapers published a Communist Party resolution urging that Polish communists should be allowed to overcome their crisis "without any outside interference."

President Ceausescu, who condemned the Soviet invasion of Czechoslovakia in 1968, has consistently argued against outside involvement.

The Hungarian, Czechoslovak and Bulgarian communist parties held central committee meetings yesterday, and it was assumed the heightened tension in Poland was discussed.

Belgrade: Mr Dragoslav Markovic, President of the Yugoslav Parliament, told a press conference yesterday: "Intervention is no solution, since every intervention calls for a new intervention."—Reuter.

Warsaw Pact mechanized units cross a pontoon bridge. The photograph, like most information about the manoeuvres, comes from official East European sources.

Four speeches in four hours by the busiest Pole

Warsaw, March 27.—The busiest person in Poland during today's four-hour strike was clearly Mr Lech Walesa.

In those four hours he sped in a column of cars, with security men provided by the Government, to address workers at four big enterprises in the Warsaw area.

His last stop was the huge Hut Warszawa steel mill, known for the militancy of its 16,000 workers.

Preaching prudence, Mr Walesa instructed his audience to stay out of trouble and avoid violence.—UPI.

No state represented here has any special 'rights' but all, including the biggest and strongest of us, do have responsibilities to set an example in respecting the sovereignty of others, and the contributions that all nations, big and small, can make," Mr Max Kampelman, the chief American delegate, told a plenary session.

Before the signing of the Helsinki Final Act, tragic developments in Europe had occurred because of the failure to apply such principles. Indeed, a "doctrine" was created, Mr Kampelman observed, in order to legitimize interference in other countries' internal affairs.

Statements with an ominous and familiar ring had been heard once again that the entire socialist community had certain special defence rights.

But, the chief American delegate went on, "given the

East German attack on free trade union

Berlin: East Germany today accused the Solidarity free trade union organization of organizing a counter-revolutionary campaign throughout Poland.

The official daily Neues Deutschland said tension was now increasing in Poland from day to day "because the leadership of Solidarity has stepped up its course of confrontation".

It described today's four-hour warning strike in Poland and plans for a general strike next Tuesday as "provocations".

To back up the strikes, Solidarity's leaders "have unleashed a counter-revolutionary agitation campaign throughout the entire People's Republic of Poland", Neues Deutschland said. The country

had been flooded with anti-communist literature which was as far as threatening to murder party officials.

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The West hopes to reap rewards from generous aid to Zimbabwe

From Nicholas Asford

Salisbury, March 27

The Zimbabwe conference on reconstruction and development ended here this evening with the massive sum of £636.73m having been pledged by aid donors for development projects over the next three years.

When aid commitments already made before the conference began are taken into account, it means that Zimbabwe has attracted a total of £689.58m in foreign assistance since the country became independent just under a year ago.

Of this total, slightly less than half is in the form of grants and the rest loans.

There is still more money to come. Dr Bernard Chidzero, Minister of Economic Planning and Development and chairman of this week's conference, said that some donors had been able to make commitments only for the coming fiscal year and others, such as Saudi Arabia and Japan, were actively considering larger aid programmes.

He was confident that, when this additional money was taken into account, the conference target of £800m would have been reached and probably exceeded. These funds are to be used for reconstruction, land resettlement, rural development and training programmes, which will form part of a three-year transitional development programme.

The success of the conference has far exceeded the expectations of the Zimbabwean organizers and of the 267 delegates representing 100 international agencies and 15 United Nations agencies who attended the meeting.

Mr Andries van Agt, the Dutch Prime Minister, who spoke on behalf of the delegates at today's closing session, said the conference was "an enormous achievement", particularly at a time of declining economies, tightening budgets and increasing unemployment.

There are several reasons why Zimbabwe, which is a relatively wealthy country by African standards, has had its plea for help heeded by the international community.

One is economic. Zimbabwe's well-developed infrastructure and its prosperous farming, mining and manufacturing sectors means that it has a good chance of becoming self-sufficient in the near future.

Donor states, clearly anxious for a success story to show their electorate back home that aid is not simply being sunk into an endless desert of starvation and poverty, hope that, once Zimbabwe has repaired its war-torn economy, it will be able to stand on its own feet.

Another reason is political. Zimbabwe has repaired its war-torn economy, it will be able to stand on its own feet.

As President Canaan Banana put it in his closing address: "Today we are grateful for receiving tomorrow we hope to be a proud and generous giver."

There is also a political reason for the donors' openness. Zimbabwe occupies a key strategic position in southern Africa. It is the linchpin of the new nine-nation grouping of black states, known as the Southern Africa Development Co-ordinating Conference (SADCC), which is striving to reduce its dependence on South Africa through greater regional cooperation.

Four of these countries depend on Zimbabwe for their links with coastal ports. Zimbabwe, which has produced a huge maize surplus this year, also has the capacity to feed its less fortunate neighbours. Plans are being considered to supply Zambia and Mozambique with up to 700,000 tons of maize this season, if transport and finance can be arranged.

Numerous delegates spoke of the need to assist regional programmes within SADCC countries and some, including Britain, gave funds specifically for this purpose. Mr Archie Magwaza, Foreign Minister of Botswana and present chairman of the SADCC, commented that "the strength of any one of us is the strength of us all".

Zimbabwe also borders on South Africa, which is now the focus point of the international community's drive to abolish white supremacy and racial discrimination from the African continent. A stable, non-racial Zimbabwe could, it is believed, help to smooth the process of change in South Africa.

Western nations, in particular, have been anxious to underpin Zimbabwe's stability because of their large investments in southern Africa. They fear that, if Zimbabwe were to disintegrate into chaos because of lack of international support, the whole region would fall prey to Soviet expansionism.

There is also no doubt that some donors were embittered by the point made by Mr Ed Kojak, secretary-general of the Organisation of African Unity, that Western investment in South Africa was 30 times greater than the total amount of assistance being sought by Zimbabwe.

It was no coincidence, therefore, that most of the aid committed during this week's conference came from Western sources. The biggest single donor is the World Bank, which has committed itself to a programme worth £205m over 10 years.

Britain, the former colonial power, remains the highest bilateral donor with a programme worth £123m. This figure does not take into account items such as debt scheduling and the cost of Britain's military training programme which, according to Lord Soames, leader of the British delegation, would be more than £140m.

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After two hours EEC ministers fail to agree on fishing policy

From Michael Hornsby
Brussels, March 27

EEC fisheries ministers, summoned to an emergency session by Mrs Thatcher and other heads of government earlier this week in Maastricht, took only a few hours here today to decide that they could not resolve the Community's long-running dispute over fishing policy.

In a statement issued after the meeting, the ministers said it had proved impossible to arrive at a complete solution in such a short space of time.

But Mr Peter Walker and his EEC colleagues claimed that "definite political progress" had been made, and they announced their "firm resolve to reach final decisions this spring".

Spring is decreed to end on June 31. The record of missed deadlines in the six-year-old fisheries dispute is a long one, however, and there must be a real danger that the haggling will continue into Britain's EEC presidency, which begins on July 1.

Mr Gerrit Braks, the Dutch Agriculture Minister and current chairman of the fisheries meetings, is to decide when to convene the next meeting after consultations with the European Commission and other member states. It is not likely to be held until after the second round of the French presidential election on May 10.

"More time is needed to prepare any new proposals properly, and the time needed for this preparation more or less tallies with the period between now and the French elections", Mr Braks commented.

Mr Josef Ertl, the German Agriculture Minister, also said after the meeting that any final decision on a new fisheries policy would have to wait until after the French elections.

The same message, according to informed sources, has also been conveyed privately by the French themselves to both the Irish and the British.

Pressed on this point publicly, Mr Daniel Hoefel, the French Fisheries Minister, did not deny that the French elections were a factor, but insisted that France's view of its rights in British coastal waters contained "nothing of a temporary nature".

It quickly became clear today that no progress was possible on the key issue of access for French trawlers to British inshore waters. This has been clearly identified for some months now as the chief obstacle to agreement.

With no overall agreement on fisheries policy possible, Mr Walker once again made clear that Britain was unable to lift its veto on the fisheries agreement between the EEC and Canada, which has been urgently requested by the West Germans.

The agreement would allow West German deep-sea trawlers to cod-fishing grounds off Labrador and Newfoundland. It would also, however, reduce tariffs on 24,000 tonnes of imported fish from Canada into the Community, and the British say most of this would end up on Britain's already depressed market.

Maintenance of the British veto means that West German fishermen will now lose their winter fishing off Canada. The fishing season in these waters comes to an end around the middle of April, due to drifting icebergs and migration of the fish stocks.

This will leave a legacy of bitterness. Some 2,000 West German deep-sea fishermen, and a further 15,000 jobs in fish processing, are said to depend heavily on access to the Canadian fishing grounds.

Mr Njonjo denies part in Kenyan coup plot

From Charles Harrison
Nairobi, March 27

Two Kenyans were today committed for trial by the High Court at the end of a magistrate's preliminary inquiry into allegations of a plot to overthrow President Daniel arap Moi.

Mr Andrew Muthemba, a businessman, is charged with treason, and Mr. Dickinson Muiruri, unemployed, is charged with misprision of treason. Both pleaded not guilty.

Today Mr Charles Njonjo, Kenya's Minister for Constitutional and Home Affairs, gave evidence before Mr Fida Hussein Abdullah, the Chief Magistrate, and denied a claim by Mr Muthemba that he had authorised him to investigate illegal trafficking in arms. He said his present post, Mr Njonjo was Kenya's Attorney-General.

However, he confirmed that Mr Muthemba went to see him last March, while he was still Attorney-General, and Mr Muthemba told him he had information about currency smuggling. On that occasion Mr

Njonjo had advised Mr Muthemba to contact a police officer in charge of exchange control matters.

Answering questions about his relationship to Mr Muthemba, who had claimed that they were cousins, Mr Njonjo said he had never met him, and his father, Mr Muthemba, was a different person.

Asked about Mr Muthemba's alleged statement that Mr Njonjo was involved in a plot against the President, he replied: "That is absolutely untrue. It is absolute nonsense to make such a statement."

Earlier, an Air Force captain gave evidence that Mr Muthemba had asked him to obtain quantities of arms, saying he represented a group of big men in the country's leadership.

Both accused men are members of the Kikuyu tribe. President Kenyatta, who died in 1978, was a Kikuyu and was succeeded by President Moi, who is a member of the small Kalenjin tribe.

Procedural wrangles delay Canada constitution vote

From John Best
Ottawa, March 27

An atmosphere of rising tension, bordering on crisis, pervaded the Canadian House of Commons today as a frustrated Liberal Government sought to bring its controversial resolution on Canada's constitution to a vote.

The House, ill-tempered and at times rowdy, remained locked in procedural wrangles all day yesterday, with the official Consensus Conference successfully blocking the Government's efforts to close off debate. The Government decided to try again today.

Mrs Jeanne Sauvé, the House Speaker, had a dreadful time throughout Thursday's afternoon and evening sittings. At one point more than a dozen Tories were on their feet, shouting to be heard.

The Government has been trying without success to bring forward a motion that would have the effect of cutting off debate and paving the way for final approval of the resolution by next weekend. The debate has now lasted for six weeks.

Under the resolution, the British Parliament would be asked to give Canada final control over its constitution after an amending formula and a Bill of Rights had been approved by Westminster.

The controversy took a new twist yesterday, when Mr Joe Clark, the Opposition leader, attempted to get Mr Pierre Trudeau, Prime Minister, to withdraw the motion on the ground that the matter of its constitutional validity was now before the Supreme Court.

The tribunal decided yesterday to hear provincial arguments against the resolution on April 28. At issue will be a provincial appeal against a split, three-to-two decision by the Manitoba Court of Appeals rejecting the arguments of six provinces that the Federal Parliament needs provincial agreement before asking Westminster to act.

Eight of Canada's 10 provinces opposed the federal measure. After months of negotiations, they were reported today to be ready to propose officially an alternative.

Mr Allan Blakeney, the Premier of Saskatchewan, told reporters here yesterday that the provincial proposal would be based on an amending formula allowing constitutional changes to be made by seven provinces, representing 50 per cent of the population, and one.

The federal proposal, on the other hand, would be weighted regionally in such a way as to give a permanent veto to both Ontario and Quebec, the two key provinces.

IRA link to the PLO is discounted by Dublin

From Christopher Walker
Jerusalem, March 27

After a secret investigation by the Irish Special Branch and the Irish Embassy in Beirut, allegations by the Israeli Foreign Ministry of continuing links between the Palestine Liberation Organisation and the Provisional IRA have been dismissed as without foundation.

I understand that the Dublin Government's findings were presented to the Israeli authorities earlier this week in the form of a diplomatic aide-memoire and a personal representation by Mr Sean Ronan, Ireland's non-resident ambassador to Israel.

In Jerusalem today, Mr Ronan told The Times: "Our inquiries in Lebanon and in Ireland go back to 1979 and reveal no evidence of any links between the two groups. We have told the Israelis that, if they have any hard facts to back up their claims, they should let us know and we will pass them on to the police for immediate investigation."

The presentation of the Irish findings comes after an allegation made earlier this month by Israel's Foreign Ministry that there was "overwhelming proof of links between the PLO and other terrorist groups, including the IRA, especially the exchange of intelligence information and training."

The statement was part of an angry official response to reports that the PLO was about to open an information office in Dublin.

The Irish investigation was started after the Israeli Government circulated copies of an article written by Mr Robert Moss in the Daily Telegraph last December. Citing information supposedly provided to the Federal Bureau of Investigation in New York by an IRA informer, the article claimed that 44 members of the IRA received training in Palestinian camps during 1979.

Distributed in photocopy form by the Israeli Information Office in London, the article claimed, 32 of the IRA men had been trained.

The Irish diplomatic reply stated: "While a few Irish people have been trained in camps in the last few years, there is no information available to the Irish authorities to indicate that IRA personnel have been trained in PLO camps in Lebanon or any other countries in recent years."

Apart from wishing to prevent damage to Ireland's security cooperation with Britain, the Irish Government is also believed to be anxious to quash rumours of a continuing IRA-PLO link in an effort to dispel suggestions that Irish troops serving with the United Nations in south Lebanon are sympathetic to the Palestinian cause.

Both accused men are members of the Kikuyu tribe. President Kenyatta, who died in 1978, was a Kikuyu and was succeeded by President Moi, who is a member of the small Kalenjin tribe.



A young mother waiting for a doctor for her sick baby at a makeshift refugee camp in Suchitote, El Salvador.

Nicaraguan arms report 'fabricated' by Mr Haig

San Francisco, March 27

Mr Alexander Haig, the American Secretary of State, has "fabricated claims" that arms had been shipped through Nicaragua to leftists in El Salvador, according to a Nicaraguan official speaking for the ruling Sandinista junta.

"There is no truth to the charges that Haig has aired," said Samuel Santos, the Mayor of Managua, the Nicaraguan capital, said today. "The junta was in no position to give them any assistance because the Government is preoccupied with rebuilding the country."

Senior Santos said Sandinista officials were most concerned about the Reagan Administration's decision last month to block a sale of wheat to Nicaragua.

"The Americans are using food as a weapon," Senior Santos claimed.—UPI.

San Salvador, March 27—A powerful bomb exploded near a bus stop on the western edge of San Salvador this morning, and witnesses said at least three people waiting for the bus were badly injured. — AP.

been denied. As far as we know, nobody but Mr Haig has seen the documents."

Although he admitted that the Sandinistas were backing the guerrillas in El Salvador, he said the junta was in no position to give them any assistance because the Government is preoccupied with rebuilding the country.

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Lock-out of printers cripples Danish press

From Christopher Follet
Copenhagen, March 27

Denmark will be without the majority of its 48 daily newspapers tomorrow because of a lock-out of printers by publishers.

Only 15 daily newspapers not organised within the Danish Employers Federation (DA) will continue to appear during the stoppage. These newspapers are mainly provincial and have a combined circulation of 300,000, which represents only 20 per cent of normal newspaper sales in Denmark.

Of the country's national newspapers, only seven will continue to be published. These include Aktuelt, the Social Democratic daily, Borsen, the financial and business newspaper, and the conservative Jyllandske Avis. The leading Copenhagen dailies, the conservative Berlingske Tidende and the independent Politiken will be missing from the news stands, together with both of Denmark's most popular mass-circulation tabloids, Ekstra Bladet and Blevit.

The lock-out took effect today after the failure of negotiations with printing unions on modern technology agreements and pay increases. The 11,000 organised Danish typographers had already given a strike notice with effect from April 1, after rejecting a settlement proposal from the employers.

Also affected by the lock-out are the majority of Denmark's printing works, 25 weekly magazines, and 250 freely distributed local newspapers. The estimated loss in newspaper circulation due to the stoppage is put at two million copies daily and 2,400,000 weekly for the magazines.

plunging the Danish press into crisis at one of the most economically difficult times in its history.

According to a DA spokesman, the lock-out was imposed after the proprietors had rejected wage increase demands from the printers of up to 15 per cent per year.

A printers' union spokesman said that the installation of new technology in return for allowing journalists to use the video terminals.

Holland has 307 video terminals, Finland 162, Denmark 66, and Britain 34. The non-union Nottingham Evening Post has 40 machines and is the only British newspaper where journalists input directly.

The Wolverhampton Express and Star has 14 terminals and is due to be replaced by more soon, but it does not have an agreement on direct input.

US examines case for arming Pakistan

From Hassan Akhtar
Islamabad, March 27

A Pakistani Foreign Ministry spokesman today confirmed that Pakistan and the United States have been discussing certain American aid proposals, including military purchases. But he said reports of an agreement on an aid package, including military sales, were "misleading, tendentious and mischievous."

The spokesman did not say how long the aid talks have been going on. It was pointed out, however, that the contacts between Islamabad and Washington have been at various levels. Since the Reagan Administration came into office, there has been strong speculation about Pakistan obtaining United States aid, including military

occupation of Afghanistan. Lord Carrington also expressed British concern and interest in meeting part of the economic burden imposed on Pakistan as a result of the influx of more than 1,500,000 refugees.

On his arrival here, Lord Carrington praised Pakistan's role in providing shelter to Afghan refugees and said that during his visit to the Afghan refugees' camp at Quetta he would assess the assistance that the British Government could provide for the refugees and for the development of Baluchistan which borders Afghanistan.

This is the second visit Lord Carrington has made to Pakistan since the Soviet military intervention in Afghanistan in December, 1979.

Clockface revolution upsets the Russians

From Michael Binyon
Moscow, March 27

The British may have been confused by the last-minute decision to postpone the change to Summer Time for a week. But this is nothing compared to the bewilderment, anxiety, and even outright hostility with which the Russians are approaching the first alteration of their clocks known in more than 50 years.

From April 1 the Soviet Union will introduce daylight-saving time, advancing all clocks by one hour. The concept seems to be utterly incomprehensible to most people, who have in their minds vague ideas of "losing" part of their lives just as their grandparents "lost" 13 days in February, 1918, when the Bolsheviks finally abandoned the old calendar and brought Soviet Russia into line with the rest of the world.

Complaints have been flooding in to the press and radio. "I have already a great deal of work in the mornings, preparing my husband's breakfast and getting my children ready for school. If another hour is added to the morning, I shall be very tired by the time I get to work," one woman wrote.

Peasants were equally disapproving. The cows had to be fed at the crack of dawn in any case, and now it was decreed that dawn would crack even earlier.

Patently the newspapers have tried to explain that nobody is going to steal time, lengthen the day or shorten people's lives. The arrangement will last only until October 1, when things will go back to normal, by which time the country will have saved 2,000 million kilowatts of electricity.

As a final inducement, the Ministry of Health announced that the "additional" hour would correspond better to the seasonal biological rhythms of the body, improve leisure conditions and increase the time people could spend in the fresh air. There are powerful arguments to Russians obsessed with nature and the phenomenon of biorhythms.

In fact, though most people do not remember it, their biorhythms were readjusted years ago when they have been living in permanent summer time ever since. Geographically, Moscow is located in the second time zone east of Greenwich. But in 1930 a government decree set all clocks one hour ahead of the Greenwich meridian, and thus under "decreed time" the western part of Russia is permanently three hours ahead of GMT.

The whole operation has been thoroughly prepared by the State Committee on Time, a special committee to oversee the great time switch, and the head of it was again attempting to soothe suspicious Muscovites.

PARLIAMENT, March 27, 1981 MPs dissatisfied with concessions on cost of industrial energy

House of Commons

The case for an extensive nuclear programme was compelling because of the long term need to reduce energy costs and maintain the competitiveness of British industry and the nation's prosperity. Mr Trevor Skeet (Bedford, C) was opening a debate on the need for competitive industrial fuel costs.

He said he wanted to prove three things. First, the concessions given for the energy-intensive industries were inadequate considering that British companies were necessarily competing in international trade.

Second, in the long-term there was no alternative to a robust nuclear power programme to reduce energy costs and to sustain living standards in the United Kingdom.

Third, part of the economic success of the United Kingdom would depend on the reasonable energy and transport costs for duty on the 20p additional calculated to achieve that end.

The case for an extensive nuclear programme was compelling. Electricity, which produced no smoke, was becoming cheaper and that was likely to become an established fact.

On generating costs alone, a much larger programme would be justified. The current programme of one station per year between 1982 and 1992, costing £9,700m, could advance to between £18,000m and £24,000m if construction was delayed.

The present disposition of CEGB plant was 75 per cent coal-fired, 15 per cent oil and 10 per cent nuclear. The Government should consider that those proportions should be changed to give the best balance of general economy and a more effective competitive system.

The British Gas Corporation over the next two or three years had followed a pricing policy. It had provided no incentives for large users, as steel, for example, was being soaked by heavy tax.

Mr Arthur Palmer (Bristol, North-East, Lab) said that nuclear-generated electricity was cheaper, not simply because of a good fortune in having the Magnox stations constructed a long time ago, but because it was cheaper to replace an old coal-fired plant with a nuclear plant than a modern coal-fired plant.

Mr Peter Reid (South-East Derbyshire, C) said that industry was in need of immediate help and aid. The Government was adjusting the subsidies and taxes. They would have to do what Britain's competitors were doing—make their industry more competitive. That meant major structural reform to break up the nationalised monopoly in gas, coal and electricity.

Industry should adapt operations to offset energy price increases

Mr Norman Lamont, Under Secretary of State for Energy (Kingston-upon-Thames, C) said the price of oil was now about 20 times more than it was in 1973. These enormous price hikes were not only a shock to the economy, they were likely to continue.

Energy price increases in the past two years had been steep. But the overwhelming reason for that was energy was not a government revenue raising as was often suggested, nor costs passed on by the nationalised energy industries because of the sudden increases in world oil prices working through to other fuels in the energy market.

But it did look now as though the worst effects of the oil price increases were over. Last year the price of oil had fallen by an average of 34 per cent according to the wholesale index. This year the estimated increase announced by the Electricity Council was about 15 per cent.

The forecast for industrial gas for the coming year was 13 per cent, compared with 30 per cent for the present year.

It might seem attractive to subsidise energy prices to help industry through a difficult period but that was wrong. It would be an indiscriminate form of subsidy. Second, it would not be a service to industry. The rising costs of industry in that way industry should adapt their operations to take account of higher energy prices.

British Gas had extended the relaxation of industrial pricing policy introduced last year and renewal prices for all gas purchased by industry and industrial customers would be held at their present levels until December 1 1981.

The provision in existing renewed contracts for firm gas that the price should be increased by 1p a therm each quarter, would not be applied over the same period. The Government was adjusting British Gas's external financing limit by £73m.

For industrial consumers on firm contracts, the new prices would mean they would be 10 per cent lower than they would otherwise have been. For interruptible price, the renewal prices would be frozen, with the proviso that the 1p increases after three months, would continue. (Conservative and Labour protests.)

That was of considerable significance because it meant that interruptible gas prices would be below the heavy fuel oil price. The firm gas price was now close to 27p per therm, compared with 29p per therm for heavy oil, 29p per therm for 24-26p for interruptible gas.

Mr Skeet (Bedford, C): All major bulk buyers are on interruptible contracts. It is those which are suffering.

Mr Lamont: Yes, but that price will be significantly below the competitive oil product and is lower than might have been expected.

Mr Rowlands: What he has said will cause widespread resentment among large intensive users of

for Energy (Mr David Howell) would guarantee cost of the tariff being charged. The price of gas was higher here than anywhere else in Europe.

Mr Edward Garrett (Walsend, Lab) said a national fuel policy did not mean a vast bureaucratic machine. Somewhere in some Government department there should be someone advising the minister on the need to coordinate policy on energy resources available in the country. Until there was a united approach to energy, the chaos in the United Kingdom energy policy would continue.

Mr Egan (Enfield, North, C) said every call for subsidised energy prices meant a decrease in Government revenue and an increase in Government expenditure. A fall in interest rates would be far further away.

He was a tremendous supporter of the British coal industry but it added him to say the good will as existing on Conservative benches being driven away by the National Union of Mine-workers. The whole viability of the coal industry was being undermined by the Government's policy of subsidising the industry insisting that such pit, continue with production, regardless of the cost.

Mr Edward Rowlands, an Opposition spokesman on energy (Merthyr Tydfil, Lab) said that since the current problems of industrial energy costs were raised energy prices had been 150m less a quarter of what the Government got from the gas levy.

Heavy industry users would not benefit from freezing of gas prices in their contracts. The 1p a therm escalation written into some contracts should be withdrawn.

Mr Jocelyn Cadbury (Birmingham, C) said that there was concern about energy prices, among some firms amounting almost to panic. The Government was adjusting the subsidies and taxes. They would have to do what Britain's competitors were doing—make their industry more competitive. That meant major structural reform to break up the nationalised monopoly in gas, coal and electricity.

Mr Peter Reid (South-East Derbyshire, C) said that industry was in need of immediate help and aid. The Government was adjusting the subsidies and taxes. They would have to do what Britain's competitors were doing—make their industry more competitive. That meant major structural reform to break up the nationalised monopoly in gas, coal and electricity.

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All the economic indicators predict continuing decline for Somalia

This is the second of two articles on Somalia by Arthur Jones, diplomatic correspondent of the American newspaper, who has recently returned from Mogadishu.

Somalia has been a deficit nation ever since independence in 1960. But all vestiges of even tinsel prosperity are rapidly being stripped away.

Inflation is running at 40 per cent and the frenetic drive for hard currencies has driven up the black market currency exchange.

Although the official exchange rate remains at 13 Somali shillings to the pound sterling the black market rate has gone from 26 shillings to the pound to between 39 and 46 in the past six months.

Somali businessmen say that while the Government turns a blind eye to their black market currency buying, there seems

to be frenetic buying by ordinary Somalis, too.

"It is as if the average person is trying to get money out, even if they cannot get out themselves", said one, referring to the fact that Somalis are finding it difficult to obtain passports.

All of Somalia's economic indicators predict further decline: the balance of payments deficit has doubled since 1978 and government borrowing has increased 296 per cent from the beginning of 1978 to the end of 1979. Foreign exchange earnings were \$100.5m in 1978 (now worth \$45m) and \$120m in 1980.

But what is more significant for the longer term is the rapid decline in the banana trade as a percentage of those earnings.

It is not merely the recurring droughts since 1974 that are to blame. Government price-fixing has made raising a

banana crop less than economic. Poor management has done the rest.

Despite water shortages and fighting with Ethiopia, however, the nomad herders and traders are managing to survive. The livestock trade to Saudi Arabia and the Gulf states had increased as

Assistant: I think you'll find
 Charles Dickens wrote *David*
Copperfield, sir.
Customer: No, no, Dickens
 wrote *David Copperfield* with
 a D. This is *David Copperfield*
 with one P by Edmund Wells.
Assistant: Well in that case we
 don't have it.
Customer: How about *Grate*
Expectations?
Assistant: Yes, well we have
 that.
Customer: That's *G-R-A-T-E*
Expectations, also by Edmund
 Wells.
Assistant: In that case we don't
 have it. We don't have anything
 by Edmund Wells, actually.
 He's not very popular.
Customer: *No, no. K-I-C-K-E-R-
 LESS.*
Assistant: No.
Customer: *Christmas Carol* with
 a K?
Assistant: Definitely not! *

When John Cleese and Graham Chapman wrote their bookish sketch, did they realize, I wonder, how closely they had approached reality — the reality of 1838 at least? Between April and June that year avid readers of *The Pickwick Papers* were eagerly buying the monthly instalments of both *Old Twist* and *Nicholas Nickleby*. Other readers, however, were snapping up weekly penny numbers of *The Saturday Pickwick*. *The Penny Pickwick, Pickwick in America*, *Old Twist* and *Nickolas Nickleberry*, all by "Bos". Others were enjoying the closing monthly instalments of *The Pickwick Papers*, the first best-seller. *Pickwick Abroad*.

Plagiarisms and piracies of various kinds had been a feature of English publishing since the days of Samuel Johnson's *Tristram Shandy* and Pierce Egan's *Life in London* had suffered particularly badly and reflected the extreme ignorance of copyright law at that time. Dickens' early work inspired a minor flood, which reached its height in the late spring of 1838.

"Bos" and G. W. M. Reynolds there was "Fox," who produced a rival *Oliver Twist*; *The Wonderful Discovery* by George Metcalfe; *Pickwick* by John H. Green; *Pecksnuff*, a satire in imitation, and a series of scurrilous magazine called *The Town* entitled "Master Humphrey's Clock." A strip was cut out for pocket-watches. Reynolds followed through with serials entitled "Pickwick Married" and "Noctes Pickwickianae," and a book, *Mr. Pecksnuff's History*. "Bos" went on to contribute *Master Humphrey's Clock* and certain long works variously remembered as *Pecksnuff's History*, *Fudge*, and *Martin Puzzlewhit*, *Puzzlewhit* or *Guzzlewhit*.

There were innumerable "jest books," "songsters" and sets of pictures—*Illustrations of the Pictures*—and many unauthorized dramatizations of his stories, some of which went into performance before the novels themselves were finished. It is hardly too much to say that literary pathology of Louis James that we owe our knowledge of these extraordinary publications.

Even the illustrations were pillaged and vulgarized. Above: three courtroom scenes as drawn for Reynolds (left) from *Pickwick* Abroad, for Lloyd (right) from *The Penny Pickwick*, and the original (centre) for *Pickwick Papers* by Dickens. Below (left to right): George Reynolds, Charles Dickens and Edward Lloyd.

A black and white portrait of a woman, likely a historical figure, wearing a dark, high-collared garment. The image is framed by a thick black border.



EDITED BY "BOS."



Mr. Tupnall was going to sit down accordingly, but the eminent senior counsel for the plaintiff was not going to let such a golden opportunity slip of doing justice to his client, he therefore arose hastily, and telling Mr. Tupnall to stop a minute where he was, he desired the judge to ask him what those two or three particular occasions were on which he could speak of the defendant's being found in a suspicious manner with females! Mr. Justice Snipe put the question accordingly, and insisted upon a reply, and consequently Mr. Tupnall at length admitted that he had once fallen into a water-butt, in attempting to peep into the apartment of Widow Dupps; that he had been caught in the bed chamber, in *deschibble*, with his next door neighbour's daughter, Miss Gubbins; that he had been belaboured in the garden of Miss Tiffindale's Academy for young ladies, at a late hour of the night, having climbed the garden wall, with a design, as it was reported, to clope with one of the hoarders; that

Courtroom illustrations courtesy The Dickens House Museum

ditionally been overstressed. The vast majority of the 40,000 ing-class readers at a price they could afford.

ated for any kind of commercial product you care to think of. The words of a popular song of the period:

*Now as you walk about the streets, sirs,
You Pickwick's face are sure to meet, sirs.
You call a cab, and this, sirs, is,
Upon the sides the name of Boz is.
You're for the play a precious fellow,
And so you go and see Sam Weller,
These things have come to such an odd pass,
My wife has christened the baby Snodgrass.*

The *Pickwick* Age runs to another four similar verses. The name had, in fact, come to stand for an ethos of good-humoured fun.

It was the major element in the book's extraordinary and continuing popularity. It was felt, firstly, to present a panorama of English life and foibles. This is true in one's sense of the word and image of the southern middle classes, those who service their needs and the inmates of a debtors' prison. Little else appears.

Secondly, the undoubted panoramic feel is derived from the richness with which it represents and reworks the culture of southern middle and lower middle class life. Several of the chapters have been in detail how Dickens reversed and enveloped familiar ideas, figures and conventions from the fiction, drama and journalism of the time. Dickens mockingly celebrated that culture; it was an original book with very little new in it.

A writer in *The Times* singled out *Mr Pickwick* as a literary masterpiece, roughly reversing modern critical opinion and indicating a deeper strand in the book's popularity. In 1836 all classes of British society were still coming to terms with the massive and rapid reshaping of their world. The growth of the cities was mirrored by the growth and self-awareness of "the rise of the £10 householder".

The relationship between Mr Pickwick and Sam Weller has always been recognized as the core of the novel, presented a sublime model of the relationship between the middle-class City gentleman and the "lower orders". A kind of "civic contract" is offered and gladly accepted by both sides. Mr Pickwick, comical and eccentric perhaps, provides cash and, in return, independence and leadership. Sam, for all his worldly wit and sagacity, has an independence which is predicated upon not having responsi-

Lloyd's publications were aimed at an entirely different market. It is true that Dickens had working-class readers, but the "universality", even of the *Pickwick* readership, has tra-

tionally been overestimated. The vast majority of the 40,000 *Pickwick* readers were middle-class and numerous autobiographies, written later in the century, attested to the affection that was felt for the novel, to its profound and enduring place in the middle-class consciousness.

Lloyd's *The Penny Pickwick* claimed 50,000 weekly sales. The preface to the bound edition specifies that the story was written for the poor man's readership, to assure that the readership was almost exclusively working-class. Thackeray had to make a special, and somewhat awkward, appeal to the class area to pick up his penny fiction. Lloyd was foremost among the publishers who were to make the working-class urban working-class market.

Recent research has shown that literacy rates were considerably higher in the 1830s than was supposed 20 years ago. It is possible that as many as 50 per cent of the adult population could read after a fashion and the habit of group purchase and reading aloud meant that periodicals and newspapers were available to far larger numbers. Clearly, far more working-class readers, or listeners, read or heard *The Penny Pickwick* than *The Pickwick*. The market has been some time, however, as Mr Doudney, a Lombard Street tailor, advertised his cap clothes in a sartorial supplement enclosed with both publications.

The careers of Edward Lloyd and George Reynolds are as remarkable as that of Dickens, but in different ways. Educated at a Mechanics' Institute, Lloyd rose to become one of England's first press barons. *Lloyd's Weekly Newspaper* became the highest selling paper in the country in the 1850s and in 1896 it became the first British newspaper to sell a million copies. He owed his success, by all accounts, to his rigorous marketing techniques and his disregard for conventional business ethics.

He paid his printers with coins stamped with the paper's name, until he was stopped by an Act of Parliament. He also kept his paper as cheap as possible, and when it started as *Lloyd's Weekly London Newspaper* in 1842 at 2d a copy it was the first paper to make hard news legally available to work-

ing-class readers at a price they could afford.

He financed his nascent press empire with the profits from the lucrative fiction business. The staple production was the novel, usually heavy with melodrama and gore. "The eyes," he told the illustrator of some lurid scene, "must be larger, and there must be more blood—much more blood!"

He was much an inveterate copier, if not plagiarist, of other people's successes. Writers were paid ten shillings per weekly instalment and serialisation was produced without regard for continuity. If they did not sell they were abruptly withdrawn. If they sold well nothing was allowed to interrupt them.

One day a writer gave birth to a baby, before delivering her copy, he said to have handed over the story over to a man who knew nothing about it. Several unrelated episodes followed. The public, however, wasn't noticing. The plagiarist didn't notice.

When his success was firmly established he abandoned bookkeeping and publishing and, according to the same source, "became the author of the 'Boss' magazines. He made a firm bid for respectability, appointing Douglas Jerrold, a popular figure in the literary world, as editor-in-chief of *Lloyd's* and eventually making his way to membership in the Reform Club. He is said to have sent many men out to the country to buy land and to have been the first truly successful newspaper publisher of the most successful range of early popular fiction and the proprietor of the first truly successful fiction newspaper. Lloyd was clearly a major shaping influence on the growth of urban commercial

George Reynolds was not, like Lloyd, a self-made man. His father was a naval officer and he also was intended for a military career. He was however an avowed Liberal and an ardent supporter of the cause of the Continent. He spent much of this period in Paris where he founded the *Paris Literary Gazette*, the first publication to pay Thackeray for an article. It was probably then that he developed the strong radical republican views that characterised his later work. When he died in 1879 he was described as "the most popular writer of our time", and the few statistics available bear this out.

In the 1840s he espoused the Chartist cause and he spoke at the famous rally on Kennington Common. He was chiefly famous for his novels and his newspaper. The novels were regarded with alarm and disgust by upright and middle-class readers. The mammoth *Mysteries of London* and *Mysteries of the Court of London* contrast the miseries and degradations of the poor with semi-pornographic descriptions of the antics of a debauched aristocracy. Radical sentiment and salacious sensationalism are shamelessly mixed. He was a prolific writer and was himself 'prolifically plagiarized and pi-

Reynolds founded and edited *Reynolds's Newspaper* which ran second to *Lloyd's* for much of the century, but which declined until the 1960s. Both papers were regarded as radical, and certainly were so when put beside the popular press today. London costermongers, interviewed for Mayhew, said Reynolds was "a tramp" (a compliment). He never sought or achieved respectability as Lloyd did but remained a wealthy pariah to the literary

establishment. **His** himself remains the most honest of all. He tells us the story. He is thought to have been Thomas Peckett Prest. Prest used to write songs and sketches to be performed by entertainers in taverns. This was the form of music that Prest went on to write for famous music hall stars. He wrote several of Lloyd's best-sellers in the 1830s and 1840s and was the author of the first fictional account of Sweeney Todd. Unlike Lloyd and Reynolds, he died in poverty.

There is no conclusive proof that the author of *The Penny Pickwick* has his pedigree is exactly right. *The Penny Pickwick* owes a lot more, in many respects, to the songwriters and jest books, to the songs and the life of the pub, than it does to Dickens.

There are crucial differences in the nature of the language. *The Penny Pickwick* is, by modern standards, amazingly good. It is a book that is almost unreadably stodgy. The 1830s readers not only had a greater tolerance of polysyllabic circumlocution than we do today, they seem to have enjoyed it. The style of *The Penny Pickwick* is rather laboured, of Dickens' sentence construction in *The Pickwick Papers* is, like much writing of the period, consciously or unconsciously modelled on the style of the *Arabian Nights*. The florid syntax of much classical inspired prose must have seemed wonderful and strange. The style of *The Penny Pickwick* presents a sort of poor man's version of the style of the *Arabian Nights*, underlining the constant insistence on the rough, the mundane and the uncomfortable. Comparison of the two versions of the opening passage gives some idea of this difference. Dickens began:

The first ray of light which illumined the gloom, and converted into a dazzling brilliancy that obscurity in which the earlier history of

the public career of the immortal Pickwick would appear to be involved, is derived from the perusal of the following entry in the Transactions of the Pickwick Club, which is edited by the said Pickwick, and in which the said Pickwick feels the highest pleasure in laying before his readers, as a proof of the careful attention, indefatigable assiduity, and nice discrimination, with which his numerous correspondents forward documents confided to him has been conducted. Here is the "Bos" version: Previous to the year 1817, the science of this sublimary world of that arrowy circumstance described, and so, that it might be looked upon merely as a small rushlight, glimmering in a dark lantern, shedding but a flickering beam upon the illiterate inhabitants. It rested with one man to dissipate the darkness [sic] — to open the channels of human knowledge — to expand the rushlight of intellectual research into the full blaze and overwhelming brilliancy of the gas-light of wisdom.

The book is, in fact, underwritten by an aggressive populism. The relationship between Pickwick and Sam is deprived of its sentimental force, where Samuel Pickwick was, if bumbling and naive, honest, decent and generous, Christopher Pickwick is simply a stupid old fool. "Bos" loses no opportunity to humiliate him; he spends much of the time washing himself out of dirty water. Samuel Veller is a dry, disaffected character compared to his original. He is in tune with a range of characters in the book who preserve a mocking and enigmatic distance from the pointlessly foibles of their middle-class

What we are shown is Dickens's "social criticism" seen from the bottom up. Here there is no sentimental endorsement of the status quo, but it is maintained, nevertheless, for the values and aspirations of the lower classes are not worthless, if not lunatic. The working classes remain entrenched in an indifferent, almost self-satisfied reserve. At times "Bos" seems to enter into competition with Dickens, asserting other meanings for the elements of the common culture that Dickens has used. A good example is the election episode. The "Bos" and more crudely and more violently than the mob is far more active than in Dickens's version. Dickens's town is called Eatansville and it would be natural to assume that Guzzleton, the town used in "Bos", was a straightforward paraphrase; but as one researcher, Mary McGowan, noted, the name on the inn-sign in Hogarth's series, "The Election", is Guzzledown. The process is more complex than direct plagiarism. In some respects "Bos" is returning to the sources of Dickens's art and challenging the way Dickens

impossible to determine how this was done consciously. *The Penny Pickwick* sets up curious cultural dialogue with Dickens in which the matter at issue is the way in which elements in the common culture are given meaning.

Of all the plagiarisms and imitations, only Reynolds' *Pickwick* Abroad approaches the success of The Penny *Pickwick*. Reynolds's mark was located somewhere between the two. Unlike The Penny *Pickwick*, his book was reviewed extensively in middle-brow papers and journals. It was bound in a well-produced volume and it printed several times until 1860. The different profiles of Reynolds's and Lloyd's newspapers, whereas Lloyd's had many lower-middle-class readers, Reynolds's seems to have been most popular with skilled workers. A book seller and a reader of fiction thus.

A great many females but
The Court of London, and
young men; young men who
go to taverns, and put cigar
in their mouths in a flourish-
ing way.

Reynolds's prose is less susceptible to eccentricities of grammar, vocabulary and spelling than that of "Bos"—there are no "spifficated gerunds" and no "superfluous but" often laden. There are many interpolated tales in which Reynolds was cutting his literary teeth. His "psychic melodramas," that went to characterize his later work.

Reynolds too reworks the central relationship between M. Pickwick and Sam, but in a different way. His admiration for French socialism, and the sophistication of French social life, pervade the book and it is with such characters as the pompousness and naivety of the English gentlemen are unfavourably compared. Reynolds's little tales are, in fact, cleverer than his master, but we are made more aware of the political implications of the work. It is something of a pity that he is something of a

Although Dickens's novel continued to be pirated and dramatized without his authority, the fictional plagiarists perpetrated only *Dombey* and *Satanstoe* was probably the last target of this number and success of the imitations was, roughly speaking, in an inverse ratio to the profundity and originality of the work, perhaps because the more deeply immersed in the popular and middle-brow culture of the period. As it is they provide us with a uniquely detailed picture of the case-study of the shifted middle-class and ideology that occur when the same raw materials are reshaped to address different classes.

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and Graham Chapman.

Records of the month

Intensely played
centenary tribute

Mussorgsky: Orchestral and Choral Works. (LSO and Chorus/Abbado. RCA RL31540; RK31540.)
Bruckner: Symphony No. 0. Chicago Baroque. DG 2331 318.
Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2. Vienna PO Carlos Kleiber. DG 2332 003; 3302 003.
Vaughan Williams: Symphony No. 4/The Lark Ascending. RPO/Griffiths/Berglund. HMV ASD3904; TC-ASD 3904.
Debussy: Appalachia/Bridge Fair. Halle/Ambron Singers/Alun Jenkins/Barbirolli. HMV Green-sleeve ESD 7099.
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 5. Arrau. Concertgebouw. DG 2331 035.
Beethoven: Piano Concerto No. 3. Clara Haskil/Lamoureux Orchestre. Philips 6327 090; 7311 090.
Brahms: Piano Concerto No. 2. Gilels/Berlin PO/Jochum. DG Accolade 2542 151.
Stravinsky: Histoire du Soldat. Gielgud/Courmay/Aloudy/Boston Symphony Chamber Players. DG Privilege 2333 456.

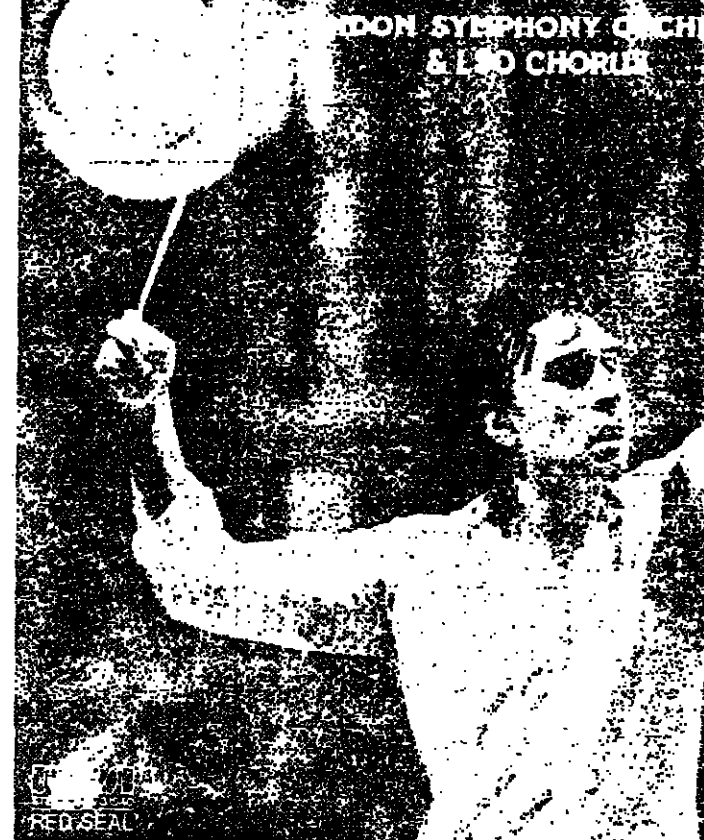
"Death has hurried here rich treasure," so wrote Grillparzer, somewhat patronizingly, about Schubert. Does the epitaph better fit Mussorgsky, who died 100 years ago today, still only 42, with only a small fraction of his dreams fully realized? Or would lack of academic grounding and the necessity of earning a living as a servant, on top of acute dysmanic, have increasingly destroyed even hope?

Alongside comparatively familiar orchestral treasures, such as the *Khovenshchina* Prelude and Introduction to Act IV and the vividly dramatic original version of *St John's Night on the Bare Mountain*, RCA's centenary tribute bravely includes four previously unrecorded choral items salvaged from this and that, with Rimsky-Korsakovsky's help (incidentally he has a hand in all but three of the record's nine offerings). The chorus

from *Oedipus in Athens*, conceived as a teenager, is no more individual than the youthful orchestral Scherzo in B flat included. But the seductive Chorus of Priestesses from the unrealized opera *Salammbô*, and thereafter *Joshua* (a cantata reworked from material in that opera, together with *The Destruction of Sennacherib* (the first of his only two independent choral pieces and heard with its mystical central vision of the Angel of Death, strikingly explain his feeling of musical rebirth, when still only 20, on renouncing cosmopolitanism to turn to Mother Russia. All the performances have a dedicated intensity: the disc is an obligatory centenary purchase.

Bruckner had already exceeded Mussorgsky's lifespan when he allowed the world to hear the first of his nine big symphonies. Even the rarely heard Symphony No. 0, deemed too immature for inclusion in the official canon, was not begun until he was 40. Because some of it struggles through symphonies, even the rarely heard Symphony No. 0, deemed too immature for inclusion in the official canon, was not begun until he was 40. Because some of it struggles through symphonies, even the rarely heard Symphony No. 0, deemed too immature for inclusion in the official canon, was not begun until he was 40.

Carlos Kleiber's new recording of Brahms's fourth symphony could have been seen as a challenge to the old contention that Brahms was not a composer. But it is not. It is a work of music, with a maximum of contrasts of dynamics and colour. Even if gear changes are once or twice insufficiently concealed, the immediacy of the cantabile reproduction of a high-powered orchestra, ensures that even fainter-hearted Brucknerians like myself can never do off.



passionate marking, in terms of noble but unyielding stone. The Viennese strings emerge sunsoaked, the woodwind and mellow, in their digital clarity.

Better known from English batons, including the composer's own Vaughan Williams's fourth symphony from the Finnish Paavo Berglund strikes home as no less menacing a warning today than when first heard in 1935, its grinding dissonance and unremitting drive offset only by uneasy, haunted repose. The *Lark Ascending* is the ideal, assuaging fill-up. The national cause is equally helped by the welcome reissue of Delius's *Appalachia* from Sir John Barbirolli, who draws the maximum nostalgia from the orchestra and Ambron Singers alike. Possibly he lingers a

little self-indulgently over parts of *Brigitte Fair*, as if still in vast Mississippi swamps, but this too is super-sensitively phrased and shaded.

Of several mid-price concertos, no one should overlook Arrau's "Emperor" recorded some seventeen years ago at his masterful peak, its opening movement as broad and strong as its Adagio is rapt with no obstructive hesitations to intensify point-making, as sometimes in later years. Clara Haskil's still older (1950) Beethoven No. 3 in C minor with Markiewicz, again of daylight truth in tonal reproduction, is still more of a collector's piece even if its two outer movements remind us more of Beethoven's debt to the eighteenth century (Mozart) than of the revolu-

tionary Prometheus to come. Brahms's second piano concerto from Gilels and Jochum, though much more recent (1972), has already become a legendary classic, its expansive warmth and might transcending any small, controversial liberties such as the leisurely, introductory approach to the first movement's opening motif.

Last but not least on the reissue shelf, Stravinsky's *The Soldier's Tale* starring John Gielgud as narrator with the Boston Symphony Chamber Players in its uppermost refinement and gleaming clarity a quite exceptional bargain unless you hanker for the rougher, rarer realities often encountered in stage performance.

Joan Chissell

Textbook of modern song

The Hugo Wolf Society, 1931-1938. Gerhardt, Janssen, Hüscher, Triemer, Schorr, McCornack, Kippis, Roth, here: Glinster, Roswaenge, Fuchs, Erb, Lemnitz, Weber, LSO, various pianists. EMI RLS 739 17 discs.

HMV's Hugo Wolf Society was launched just 50 years ago. It was the brainchild of Ernest Newman, music critic of *The Sunday Times*. Wolf's first biographer in Britain and a devoted admirer of the composer's inadequate representation in song recitals, Newman had a ready acolyte in Walter Legge, a keen student of the Lied, an employee in the education department of HMV records and an admiring acquaintance of Newman.

In 1929 Legge set up the Lied Club in London to test public response and extend the repertoire. A year later he persuaded HMV to market an album of records, available by subscription as well as in a single edition, devoted to songs by Wolf. Using the influential name of Newman, HMV persuaded Elena Gerhardt, the acknowledged goddess of German song, to record the songs against a rock much less than her minimum fee. Subscribers were none too easily procured, the volume was warmly received and five further issues followed before the outbreak of war in 1939.

Subscribers were told at the time that the Wolf Society records would not otherwise be made publicly available; since then, despite public appeal, they have remained among the most valuable properties in the HMV vaults. The first volume, never transferred to LP, excited a brief resurrection in 1964. After 50 years, the pledge is evidently redeemed. All six volumes at last reach micro-cassette, together with Newman's copious annotations and Winifred Radford's English translations. Further more, enough extra material, recorded at the time, has been discovered to make up a seventh volume.

The transfers have been scrupulously made: the recorded sound is as crisp as today, even that of the first volumes (some reservations

are noted below). We cannot help noticing now that the manner of singing Wolf has altered a good deal in those 50 years; likewise piano accompaniment has become more forthright and poetical (Gerald Moore's book-titled *An I too Lied?* was not a mere joke). The growth of appreciation for Wolf's songs since 1945 was again master-minded by Legge, still working for EMI, soon afterwards promoting the first recordings for his Philharmonia Concerts Society.

Gerhardt's volume, the first record in the new set, demonstrates the change most dramatically. Her voice was a heavy mezzo by character, though she could lighten it for girlish effect, her manner far more the grande dame than Schwarzkopf, let alone Ely Ameling, ever suggests in performance. In "Gstanz Weylas" she is superb, poignant in the Spanish sacred dialogue of Christ and a believer, "Herr, was trübt der Boden hier?" But, in "Bogengang" the singer is experienced as an eavesdropper; a performance today would postulate one of the great young voices as the counterpart. Exquisite as is Gerhardt's manipulation of the brief Italian vignettes, one cannot readily accept her as a Tuscan peasant girl. "Das verlassene Mädchen" is another matter, she scorns up to higher notes, and she is no teenage skivvy, but her plight knocks at the heart.

Having got the Wolf Society off the ground, Gerhardt made a few further singers. The finest of them all was Gerhard Hüscher (now 80, still marvelously active as a teacher) who sets words on a vocal line as vividly as any modern singer, but without nudging for attention. Hüscher's "Der Rattenfänger" and "Epiphania" are virtuoso character-studies. Among the other singers in the later volumes, Friedrich Schorr excels in "Prometheus" with orchestral accompaniment, though the recorded sound is rather distant. Alexander Kipnis contributes a superb "Grenzen der Menschheit", heavily accented but exemplary in legato and nuance.

Herbert Janssen had a marvellous tone, and sang like a matinee idol, but nowhere near the tragedy of

Goethe's harp-player, Alexander Triemer was clearly well schooled, but did little with words or characterization, and cultivated a little-girl soprano which soon outstays its welcome. John McCormack's rendering of "Gedeynt" used to be greatly admired, but sounds to me painfully stiff and unconvincing.

Elizabeth Reiberg, a great operatic soprano, was even less successful than Gerhardt in the Italian songs, words and characterization rather vague. There is a flawed but exciting account of "Der Feuerreiter" by Helge Roswaenge, and Gerald Moore—the standard of piano-playing suddenly jumps into vividness. Ria Glinster, not an opera-singer as most of these were, comes close to an admirable soprano style for Wolf. Karl Erb, evidently past his best, could still sing "Ach im Maien" as expertly and movingly as could be imagined. Erb hit top form in what now appears as Volume Seven, with a brilliant "Witz", "Auftrag" and "Unfall" and vivid, rapt rhythm in "Der Scholier". Here too is the best of Tina Lemnitz, and Maria Fuchs strongly dramatic, terror and passion united, in "Geldelieber" for my money the greatest love song in the world. Ludwig Weber, not a famous recitalist, contributes a spectacular "Geister vom Mummelsee", and a really theatrical "Ganzes Sanges". It cannot be coincidence that Gerald Moore is the pianist in these last performances, and that they sound much more like our sort of Wolf than do the early volumes. Even Janssen comes out of his Adonis shell and becomes involved in what he sings. There was not to be such a large gap before the postwar Wolf cult began again.

Now it is no cult, but a fact of musical life, for which Gerald Moore is as much to be thanked (busy in retirement, I hope) as the still influential shade of Legge. The recorded Wolf repertoire, less rich now than a few years ago, has received a sizable and revealing injection with this box, at once the prehistory of modern Lied-singing and its best textbook.

William Mann

Dexterity which defies belief

Bartok: String Quartets Nos 1-5. Tokyo Quartet. DG 2740 235 (3 discs).
Schubert: String Quartet in D minor ("Death and the Maiden")/Quartet Movement in C minor. Quartetto Italiano. Philips 9500 751.

Schubert: String Quartet in G major, D 887, Alban Berg Quartet. EMI ASD 3882.
Bridge: String Quartet No 1/Moeran: String Trio/Lamson Quartet. Philips SHE 553.
Mendelssohn: Octet/String Symphonies Nos 10 and 12. Musica. Philips 6327 076; 7311 076.

Rossini: Sonate a quattro/Un mot a Paganini/Duetto/Una farra. Accardo/Gazeau/Moerli/Petracchi/Cano. Philips 3769 024, (2 discs).
Beethoven: Trio for piano, flute and bassoon/Horn Sonata. Barenboim/Dobson/Senneker/Bloom. DG 2531 382.
Debussy: Concertations/Liebesräume/Sonetti del Petrarca. Barenboim. DG 2531 318; 3301 318.

Even if this were not the week of the Bartok centenary, the Tokyo Quartet's new cycle of its quartets would be my recording of the month. It is not that these works have not been adequately recorded before, for indeed they have, several times. But they belong among that elite group of twentieth-century masterpieces which invite and gain from a variety of different approaches.

The special virtues of the Tokyo Quartet's performances include their ability, so useful in Bartok, to make sounds that are harsh but not ugly, and also their extraordinary precision of timing and ensemble; their dexterity in the first scherzo of the fourth quartet, for instance, defies belief.

On the whole, though, their speeds are a good deal slower than Bartok expected, and this contributes to a certain deliberateness in the playing that Brahms senses here of music growing as naturally as a flower, but rather the feeling of an art busy and crowded with intelligence.

It is no surprise, therefore, that the Tokyo Quartet should miss some of Bartok's melodic grace and seem to mistrust him when he is being most simple. They have much more fun with the heavy ironies of the fifth and sixth quartets, which benefit too from the way they switch colour so easily. Nevertheless, I was greatly impressed also by their version of the second quartet, a work which I would sometimes account the pinnacle of the set because it is so difficult to explain, though so too is Bartok's achievement in creating six works so utterly different from each other.

This exceptional month for quartets brings also fascinating but contrasting performances of two late Schubert works, "Death and the Maiden" played by the Quartetto Italiano and the G major quartet by the Alban Berg Quartet. The former is warm, full and rich, with a superb freedom and generosity in the melodic lines that sometimes sounds not song-like but operatic. This does not mean, however, that the device of the finale is less different from each other.

The view of the German team is more controlled and longer-term, and they bring to the G major quartet a majesty of unfolding and splendour of sound that look forward to Bruckner. The drama of texture and

tonality in the first movement is very powerful, and can well do without the repeat of the already lengthy exposition. Nor is there any sense of strain in the playing, but the little sense of music growing as naturally as a flower, but rather the feeling of an art busy and crowded with intelligence.

Rather different problems are faced by the Alban Berg Quartet in their coupling of Bridge and Moeran. The early Bridge work, dating from 1906, has all the rhapsodic lyricism of its period, with an ancestry in Brahms that occasionally produces startling reminiscences of Brahms's contemporary first quartet, as does the harmony, more searching than was common in English music at the time. To move from this very sophisticated piece, beautifully played, to the Moeran is to leave the Edwardian drawing room for a morning ramble in gumbots.

Back in civilization, I Musici offer a smiling performance of Mendelssohn's octet, phrased with loving attention. The effect is to make the music seem to be made by itself, though I suspect that is not an inappropriate manner for an boyhood masterpiece. In any event, the presence of two of the string symphonies, in B minor and C major, reminds one that the young Mendelssohn could be more than charming and sentimental, besides making this a release for the frugal, with 65 minutes of music on two sides.

Rossini as a lad was obviously never so well behaved. His juvenile sonatas abound in pastiches of operatic writing for the violin, absurd monologues for the double bass, and generally imple delight: they



A far from gruff hornplayer for Beethoven?

certainly need to be heard in their original form, as recorded here, rather than in remade versions for string orchestra. Salvatore Accardo is in his purest, most sparkling form on the top line, with irrepressible support from the bassist Franco Petracchi, and this rare feast of musical wit is completed by three works from the composer's later years.

Less remarkable than the teenage compositions of Mendelssohn or Rossini, Beethoven's Trio for piano, flute and bassoon, written when he was 15, is still entirely amiable, though the consistent doubling of keyboard and wind does become tiring. The Horn Sonata here has different problems, but it is less than a century ago.

of course the whole point of the issue is Daniel Barenboim's wonderfully fluent piano playing, never merely an accompaniment.

The List recital is also unusual repertoire for Barenboim but well worth his while investigating, especially when he chooses three sets of works that are generally slow, fluid and contemplative. He brings to them a thoughtfulness to make every cascade or ornament a meaningful event: the image that comes to mind as he plays is not of the flashy virtuoso, but of the serious musician exploring the keyboard only for himself. Performed like this List seems hardly less quietly intense than the fellow countryman born a century ago.

Paul Griffiths

Radio

Good in parts; first and second time around

terials and programmes in arts have a tendency to escape critical net—a small shrinking net, I sometimes think, with which my colleagues and I jab about at random in the ocean of radio. For such programmes here is always next week or the week after, and so it goes on until, still unnoticed, the final programme comes and goes and he same process of procrastination can then be applied to its successor—or even, if I work it, to the repeat.

I am sure that *Folktales* Radio 4, Fridays, now two-thirds of the way through its second hearing, ought not to complete it without mention. Written by Dave Arthur, presented by Toni Arthur, each part is an anthology of material in different aspects of the supernatural: fairies, witches, hobgoblins. What gives the programmes their appeal is the number of stories woven into them; most of these appear to have been told impromptu into the microphone and some of the

tellers fair raise the goose-pimples. Questions of whether there is one grain of fact in any of them tend to get overlooked, although in many one recognizes certain principles that underlie less romantic and colourful traditions: do not steal from the fairies or you will be punished for it, goes one admonition, echoing another which says that if you plunder mystical teachings for your own ends, you will gain nothing and may even lose. This series is produced by Daniel Snowman whose name at the end of any list of credits has always been a pointer to good programme content.

Another excellent small series ends today and again this is its second time round. Produced by Shirley du Boulay, taken from *Thicker than Water* is an examination of the formative power of blood relationships; it is conducted by Dr Anthony Clare, whose mild, persuasive Irish accent is in itself an inducement to listen. But the chief attraction is the quality of the contribu-

tors whose powers under sympathetic questioning to describe the influence of a father, a mother, or (as you can hear this afternoon) of a brother or sister, are very considerable. Of course when one of them is Thomas Hinde that is hardly to be wondered at. A series on a subject such as this must be of potential interest to absolutely everybody and the conduct of it ensures that many listeners will stop to examine how far their own blood relationships have made them what they are and shaped their own perceptions of the world.

The contrast between this and Capital Radio's new popular psychology series, *Teach Yourself*, is to put it charitably, sharp. John Nicholson of Bedford College presents, Maggie Norden produces and on the two Monday evenings so far they have given us a programme on the interpersonal relationships of office life, followed by another on friends and friendship. They continue until May 4th with such topics as shyness, and happiness. The intention of the series is clear enough and indeed laudable; take aspects of behaviour with

which most of us are so familiar that we don't even think of them as old, off-putting psychology and let's take a closer look. At the same time somebody has thought: if we do not present this in the style to which our listeners are accustomed, nobody is going to listen. Thus the two programmes to date have been liberally sprinkled with the utterances of the famous (e.g. Morecambe and Wise on friendship), inserted as if for that reason they were going to be of more consequence than those of Joe Bloggs: in general, they are nothing of the sort and sometimes downright vacuous. Worse than that, both productions have been put together in something like a gish, which would you believe! style which makes their material sound altogether too exactly like what the listeners are accustomed to, i.e. a collection of the disconnected snippets of information purveyed by disc-jockeys. The method only helps to obscure whatever these programmes might have to offer to their listeners to help them formulate some general ideas about themselves and Mr Nicholson's script does little to correct

this. In short, content, such as it is, has been sacrificed to a smart, easy-on-the-ear, container—with pretty horrible results. A pity, and particularly so because Jane Walsley is conducting one of her investigations, for example, the listeners are treated to more respect.

With 23 parts still to come, there is obviously every opportunity to defer mention of *The Lord of the Rings* and indeed I think that beyond these few words I had better do so because after three episodes it is still very difficult to assess how things are going to shape up. The book itself is a slow starter, having to make allowances for all who have not read *The Hobbit* before the action can get under way. Radio shares that problem, but I am not sure it has been reduced by a decision to broadcast in half-hour episodes. Three weeks and one and a half hours, I have the impression that things are only just getting hot. With each episode at an hour, involvement might already have been high with less strain on the memory and concentration.

David Wade

Telemann's versatility revealed

Telemann: Der getreue Music-Meister. Soloists, Württemberg Bach Choir/Ulm. Archiv 2723 073 (five discs).
Telemann: Tafelmusik. Schola Cantorum Basiliensis/Wenzinger. Archiv 2723 074 (six discs).
Telemann: Wind Concertos. Holliger/Copple/Nicolet/Camerata Bern. Archiv 2533 454; 3310 454.
Lieder und Arien des Barock. Prey/Vienna Capella Academica. Philips 9500 750.
Vivaldi: Cello Concertos. Tortelier/LMP/Ledger. EMI ASD 3914.
Bach/Händel/Vivaldi: Oboe Sonatas. Holliger/Pich-Axenfeld/Cervera. Philips 9502 019.
Händel: Six Concerti Grossi, Op. 3. ECO/Leppard. Philips 9502 006; 7313 006.
Händel: Fireworks Music/Water Music Suite No. 1. ECO/Leppard. Philips 6327 047; 7311 047.

How long before we hear complaints of the Telemannization of Radio 3? With increasing exposure on the air and a large-scale radio series due to start next weekend, Telemann's seventeenth-century music is cracking start. Archiv Produktion joins in the celebration by reissuing two boxed sets of music from Telemann's subscription series. The 62 items of *Der getreue Music-Meister* (the first music periodical to include entire compositions, some by guest contributors) reveal almost as wide a variety of style, form and invention as the music of the major composers, and are performed on a good cross-section of contemporary instruments.

The set was first released in 1967 for the two-hundredth anniversary of Telemann's death and the style of instrumental playing has for the whole worn better for our ears than the vocal: the choral singing and Hertha Topper's contralto, in particular, sound laboured and overwrought. But I especially enjoyed Gerhard Unger's imaginatively characterized "Die Kuh" from the opera *Aesopus*, the strangely

mordant, folk-like Sonata in G for descant and bass viols, the irresistible "Carillon" for two shawms, Eduard Melkus's daring, often violin sonata by Signor Stormer, and a clavi-chord Fantasia by Mr Hattmeier, given a sensitively scaled recording.

Telemann's later collection of *Tafelmusik*, a twin in recording quality and presentation, is despite its title, even more satisfying musically. More of a bouquet than a pot-pourri, its three "Productions" of suites, concertos, quartets, trio and solo sonatas and Conclusions point to the characteristic sensitivity to the "diverse natures of various instruments" in various combinations. The performances, on period instruments, reveal carefully studied and elegantly executed rhythmic ideas and ornamentation, even if there are times when such earnestness could be tempered by a little wit and higher spirits.

There is more sense of movement and no less idiosyncratic musicianship in the Camerata Bern's performances of Telemann's inventive and often astonishing original wind concertos. Constantly enlivened and regenerated by beats of folk music, recorder and flute seem to emulate a burly-gurdy here, oboe d'amore a shepherd's pipe there, all within shapely French and Italianate moulds.

Five of Telemann's jolly, neatly characterized little continuo folk songs are included in Hermann Prey's recital of baroque songs, sacred and secular, many of which provide valuable insights into the early development of German song. The vocal performances are not, alas, as contrasted in manner as in matter, with the lively numbers a little over-earnest, equal if not greater pleasure is provided by the inexhaustibly inventive accompaniments bubbling away underneath, or, as in Eduard Melkus's quasi-impassioned violin refrain, "Kreuzer's "Der Rheinische Wein", dancing their way in and out of the words.

Paul Tortelier and the London Mozart Players give muscular, boldly projected performances of three of Vivaldi's cello concertos, which they play in poise and sense of proportion they gain in a raw, vital, at times precipitate energy. Philip Ledger directs all too obviously from the harpsichord. On the second, more rewarding, with his Corvelli and Jacques Francis Manzoni join forces for the lesser known Concerto in C for violin and two cellos.

By comparison with some of the first solo cello concertos, Vivaldi's C minor sonata du chies for cello, with its Corvelli influence, sounds almost archaic. Heinz Holliger's stylish performance is full of spirited enthusiasm, while his playing of three of Handel's obnoxious concertos, their more spacious themes wreathed in most beautifully executed decorations, perfectly realizes the subtle lights and glowing sensuousness which the music shares with the nicely matched Willard Glass Heda still-life on the sleeve.

One of the main attractions on a reissue from the 1972 two-record set of Handel's Concerti Grossi, Op. 3, must be the playing of David Munrow, Richard Adeney and Neil Black sharpening the luxurious sheen of Leppard's generous quota of strings. Another, thanks to Leppard's direction and the immaculate recording, is the revelation of Handel's perfectly judged levels of recession of instrumental tone and colour: listen, for example, to the bold patterning of the violin relief over the dotted rhythms of the opening *Vivace* of No. 2.

From Stokowski and Boult to Dart and Hogwood everyone has his own favourite *Fireworks* and *Water Music*. Leppard's Seventies recordings are available once again, contributing to the catalogue their own distinctive elan, svelte stylishness and unashamed aural hedonism.

Hilary Finch

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De Point Plaza Hotel during the high season (mid-July to mid-August), £425 per person. Must be booked 21 days in advance.

There are no other direct flights from London to Puerto Rico. Alternative routes are via Miami, San Juan or New York (booked and paid for not less than 21 days in advance) from London to Miami cost £328 return on British Airways, TWA and Pan Am. Connecting daily flights from Miami to San Juan are with US carriers and cost \$200 return.



Laker Airways' excursion fare to Miami (which must be booked and paid for at least 21 days in advance) is now £289 return for the period July 1 to September 15. This price is due to rise on April 7 but will apply to flights paid for before that date.

Shona Crawford Poole

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Golden images locked in glass

Joanna Nutty is an artist who engraves in pure gold. She has revived an ancient craft and has given it a modern interpretation by engraving pictures, boxes, paperweights and pendants in gold on glass and painting the design with translucent watercolour. The effect is something like Indian cloth of gold trapped in ice.

An ex-ballerina, she was forced by an accident which prevented her walking for three years to find some other outlet for her artistic talent and she fell in love with some gold engravings at the V & A.

She taught herself to imitate them and from "scratching away with some old gold paint" she developed such a high degree of skill that she now works with sheets of pure gold leaf.

She tried to research the subject but could find very little help. The technique

has been traced to Alexandria, where a gold engraved medallion was discovered in the walls of the catacombs. It had its heyday in Roman times, when double walled bowls — one gold engraved and the other slipped over to protect it — were highly prized, and in the 17th century there was a vogue in Holland for small panels featuring religious subjects, birds and flowers.

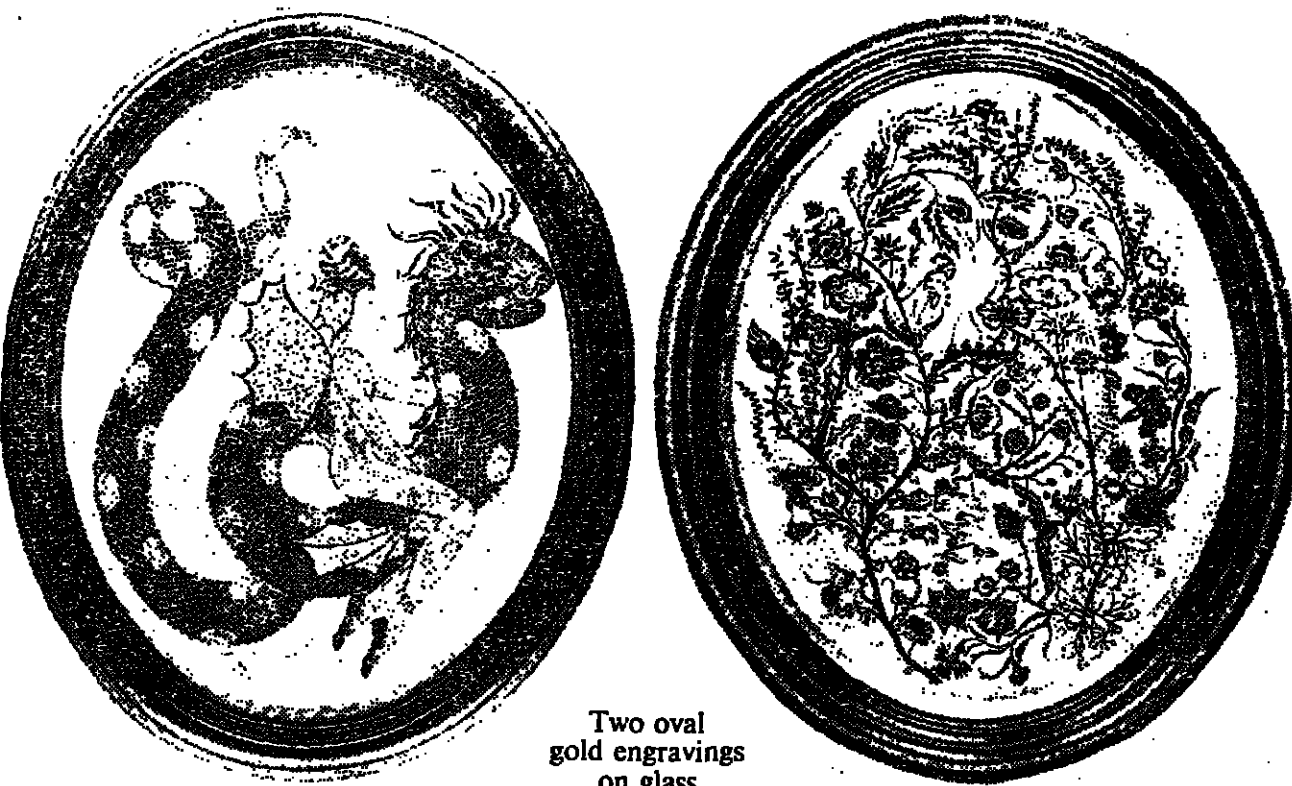
So she learnt by trial and error. The gold leaf is laid on the underside of the glass to be decorated and the design is scratched with sewing needles held in a pin vice bought from a hardware shop. It is an exacting task. Mistakes cannot be rectified and the gold leaf is at first so soft that it can easily be rubbed off while the design is being created and then, after about 10 days, so brittle that it is no longer workable.

"I can only start when I am mentally prepared. I sit down with a cup of tea and the needle and I know instinctively when I am ready. I then work through for seven or eight hours without a break. I just know I won't make a mistake."

At first she concentrated on pictures and beautiful boxes with the sides and lid engraved and set into solid rosewood, but working on larger objects when the time for completion is limited by the malleability of the material is very demanding — sometimes it is necessary to put in 12 hours a day for 10 days, which is not a pace anyone can sustain for weeks on end.

So more recently she has been expanding her range to include other decorative objects — smaller, black enamel boxes with engraved glass lids, double sided pendants, the size of a Churchill crown, with a different design on each side and flat paperweights with a rose underneath which is filled with the gold decoration.

Prices range from £35 for the glass paperweights and £50 for the pendants to about £500 for a picture and £800 for the rosewood boxes. No two designs are alike and individual commissions can be discussed, so if you have a particular style of design in mind it could be engraved specially for you. For more details write to Joanna Nutty, 193 Goldhurst Terrace, London NW6.



Two oval gold engravings on glass by Joanna Nutty

Being a devoted bee-keeper takes only half a minute a day

If you have always wanted to keep a rainbow trout on a roof in Rotherhithe or a beehive on a balcony in Bow, a book published this week will tell you how to go about it.

It is called *Taking Stock* (Jill Norman, £3.95) and its author, Peter Isaac, sets out to prove that, however small a space you have, you can become a modest stockman. A productive animal will cost the same to keep as a domestic pet, he says, provide you with a certain amount of self-sufficiency and a great deal of satisfaction and "if you plan properly, farm animal husbandry can be slotted into your everyday life."

He starts the book with a series of plans for stocking various areas from the balcony to a small holding, showing what you can expect to keep and how much time each day you need to devote to the

livestock you choose. (Bees ½ minute, pigeons one minute, sheep five minutes, goats 25 minutes, cows 30 minutes — for those of you planning to rival the Archers.)

He then deals with equipment, fencing, housing the animals and discusses laws, cost, where to buy, how to feed and whether the animal will smell, yell and pay for its keep.

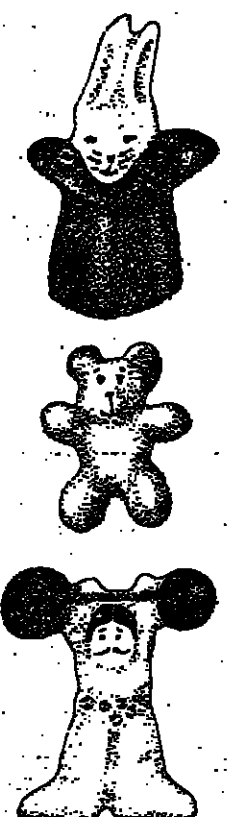
The net profit, for instance, on a cow providing 320 days of milk and 450lb of meat is £303.20 a year, 100 trout selling at £1 each will give you £41 after deducting the cost of their keep, 10 guinea fowl £2, and 20 rabbits £19 "plus a few good meals as well".

Ah, there's the rub. I have had only two attempts at the Good Life. The first was a sort of Looking Glass experience when I was a child and my mother kept chickens as a war effort. We had

lots of fresh eggs while everybody else was mixing up little messes of dried yellow powder, but the thought of eating friends you have not only been introduced to, but have christened with names like Clara and Hermione, was beyond both us and the call of national duty so we maintained them at great expense until they died of rheumatism.

The second was when my husband and I bought a farmhouse with three incubent ducks. Eight years later two died and we gave the third to a neighbour who came round in tears one day because her drake had lost his mate and was pining for what she delicately described as a "companion".

It only occurred to me later that I might have sent Dora to a fate worse than death and I have never attempted to meddle with nature since.



Above: Amusing hand-painted ceramic brooches, 1 in high, £1.20 each, made by Andy and Tamsin Titcomb, 43B, Strand, Topsham, Nr Exeter, Devon. Also at the General Trading Company, Sloane Street, London, SW1; Cloud Nine, Jesmond, Newcastle; Rainbow, Clifton, Bristol.

Sweetheart plants need not be too dear

If you like house plants but are put off by the high charges for the more imposing varieties, you will enjoy a visit to a shop in Marylebone which specializes in plants at more probable prices.

It has been opened by Nevin and Sidney Moss as part of their interior design shop, *Swellegance Interiors*, 14-16 Balustrade Street, London W1, as they often found that clients wanted not only the background decor but also the finishing touches in the form of plant displays.

Most of their jungle of greenery is bought in Covent Garden, where Sidney Moss buys specimens for the contract plant maintenance side of the business. He also hires plants to photographers and for film and television sets and these, if they are in good enough condition when they are returned, are sold at considerable reductions.

A 6ft sweetheart plant, for instance, which came back from a photographer looking rather sad but is now resolutely reviving, costs £29 instead of the £45 it would be in prime condition. A huge Norfolk Island pine is £25 instead of £50. These bargains, I

feel, are for those who know that their green fingers can bring anything with a spark of life back to full splendour.

For those with less talent there are plants in perfect condition and even these are considerably cheaper than you will find in many other West End suppliers. A magnificent four-stem yucca, for instance, is £57.50, a three-stem rubber plant £23 and a Kenya palm £39.99. There are also yucca heads at £7.90 and lavish ferns at various prices according to size.

You can also find all the accessories you need to show off your plants to best advantage. There are five sizes of bamboo plant stand from £10.50 to £22.50, self-watering pots from £10, moss sticks from £1 to £3 and a selection of cache pots in bamboo at very low prices — one big enough to hold a 10ft tree costs only £9.

If the thought of struggling home with a temperamental weeping fig disturbs you, do not worry — deliveries can be arranged free in Central London and for a nominal charge to outlying areas. For more information telephone 01-486 9418.

Trading on other people's names

A shop specializing in famous signatures has opened in Sunningdale, Berkshire. It is called *The Autograph Shop* and it has photographs, documents and mementoes which have been signed or once belonged to people as diverse as Marilyn Monroe, Abraham Lincoln and Noel Coward.

Ian Sayer, the owner, had discovered when researching a book that he had to go to the Continent and America to find the signed documents he needed and that, in spite of a keen interest in autographs in this country, it was difficult to find the dealers who specialized in them.

So he began to accumulate the sort of signatures that would make interesting decoration as well as documentation — Christmas cards signed by the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh, letters from Florence Nightingale, Lillie Langtry, Buffalo Bill, photographs and books — even a sprig of heather taken from Prince Charles's christening font, mounted with a letter of authentication from his nurse at Buckingham Palace. Framed items are from £20, unframed from £1.

Indeed, putting a price on a signature these days can have some ego-deflating side effects. I wonder if Ronald Reagan, £180, likes being pipped past the post by Elvis Presley, £225, and does Henry Kissinger, £50, know that he is only a fiver ahead of Hopalong Cassidy?

Rarity is one of the most important factors in assessing the value of a signature, so if you have an avid autograph hunter in the family, Ian Sayer's advice is to do something a little more than just getting a star to sign an album.

"Autograph albums aren't really terribly interesting or valuable unless they contain someone really rare. Most people get several signatures on one page and then get others to sign on the back of the same page, which is really no use commercially."

The best plan is to write to a star and ask a really interesting question, enclosing a photograph and asking for a signature. With any luck if the question is good enough, the star might write a personal letter back.

The most prized possession in Ian Sayer's own collection is the document signed by Admiral Donitz in 1945 authorizing the negotiations that led to the German surrender. There were two copies — his, valued at £50,000, and the other in the American National Archives.

Some people concentrate on single subjects for their collections. Beware if American presidents or astronauts are your interest because many of them use a diabolical device called an Autopen — a machine which holds a pen and copies a signature mechanically.

Those of us blessed with less than distinguished names might take heart from a study of the value of autographs. It took Beryl Bainbridge to reassure me that perhaps my parents had intended me for a literary career after all and had not thought of me as a comedienne or a barmaid, so I have been considerably comforted to learn of the value of one with an equally unmusical label, one yclept Button Gwinnett.

Button, would you believe, was a signatory of the American Declaration of Independence. While others who signed the declaration may be collected for a song because they were somewhat ready with their autograph on all sorts of other less resounding bits of paper, Button, died in a duel at an early age and had no time to sign anything much. The result is that, when you can find it, his autograph is worth in the region of £25,000.

If a congressman who sounds like a pantomime page can do it, there is hope for the rest of us, who may yet find our signatures for sale at *The Autograph Shop*, Station Parade, London Road, Sunningdale, Berkshire.

The man who went to work on good old English wooden eggs

A company which is beating the recession and was even working overtime at Christmas has a success story which will make anyone facing redundancy take heart. It has been built by a self-taught craftsman, Robin Ellis. Instead of moaning when he found himself without a job he picked up his cheque, dusted down his pride — and went to work on an egg.

It was a rather special egg, made of beautifully grained wood and it contained the embryo of a

business which now has a mailing list of 7,000 customers. To tell the truth, it was not quite as easy as all that. He had no wood turning experience and cannot draw, so he had to teach himself the techniques of handling and shaping wood from scratch, helped by the discerning eye of his wife, Mary.

He also had to come to terms with customers who thought craft was a part-time hobby and expected to get made-to-measure carpentry at Third World prices, and then with large stores who

wanted to dictate their own terms.

There were mistakes and frustrations, but eventually the egg, commissioned originally by David Hicks, was to prove the turning-point in his success. At first he showed at craft markets and agricultural shows, but whatever the weather the eggs sold and people kept coming back for more. He had started a collecting craze.

Eventually, having turned his home into a workshop, with the office in the spare room, he was able to take over a small factory in Linton, Cambridgeshire, and now has a flourishing mail order business, adding new designs each season to a range of simple, good ideas made in beautiful, natural woods.

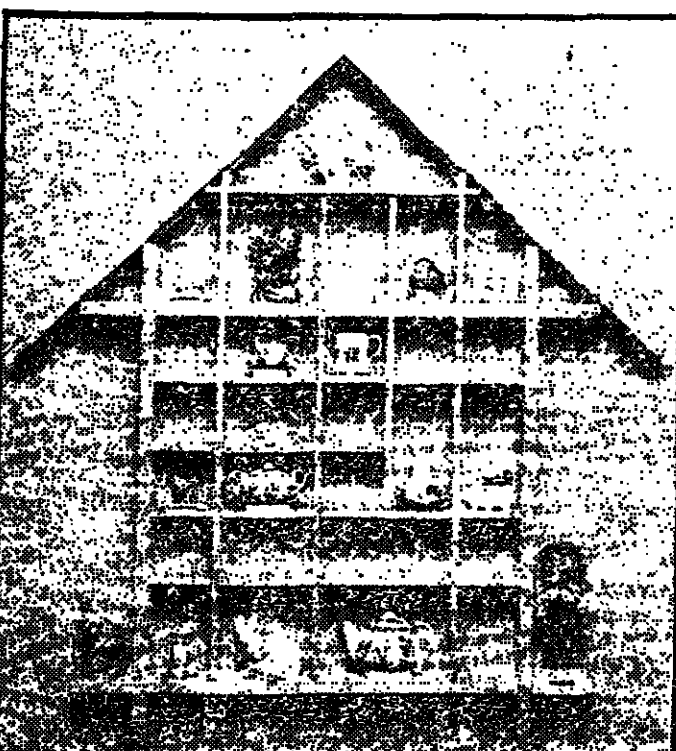
The products fit neatly into a slot between traditional and the sort of modern design Robin and Mary consider "too square and chunky". They adapt traditional ideas, "smoothing out the fuss" and taking advantage of modern finishes to protect the natural woods. Their prices are not excessive as they combine machine-made techniques in keeping the cost down with hand finishing to give each item quality.

The eggs, of course, are still in the range. There are now 15 to choose from — English yew, oak, elm, walnut, sycamore, ash and beech, plus rosewood, mahogany, pine and oak from Africa, India, Canada, Asia and the West Indies. The whole collection costs £35.25 plus £2 p&p and individual eggs are available from £2 to £3.95 plus £1 p&p.

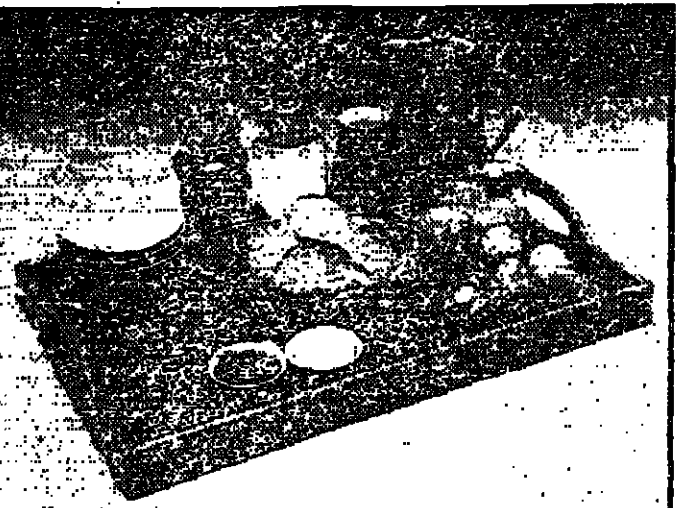
Also in the range are some good looking wood trays including a butler's tray, 24in x 16in, in oak or elm, at £19.50 (these are available at John Lewis, Oxford Street, London W1, if you prefer to look before you buy). There is also a more delicate Family Hostess tray, 18in x 12in, in Indian rosewood, £35, and English yew or American black walnut, each £31, all including p&p.

A good and economical idea for those who like tables draped with fabric to match curtains or wallpaper is a collection of round table bases, in various sizes. The 16in diameter x 16in high cost £16 a pair and 24in by 24in and 20in by 24in are both £18.50 a pair. They are self-assembly and made of chipboard, but who wants to buy an expensive table if it is to be covered up?

Illustrated leaflets are available on all the products and the whole range can be seen in the factory showroom if you live near Linton. The telephone number for Robin and Mary Ellis Design Manufacture is 0223 892592.



For children's rooms, a pine display unit in Swiss chalet style, 21in x 24in, £8.90, including p & p, from Robin and Mary Ellis.



Butler's tray in oak or elm, £19.50, has separate fold-away legs to match at £9. Prices include p & p from Robin and Mary Ellis, Linton, Cambridge.

Distinctively yours and on approval

British Telecom have added two new shapes to their special range of telephones — and the names they have given them sound as if the designer was having some sleepless nights in the Alps. They are called Dawn and Eiger.

Dawn is a rotund telephone suggested as an extension phone for the bedroom and comes in pale yellow, avocado, and white. It costs £18 plus an extra £2 quarterly rental and is available now.

Eiger is an upright press-button telephone with a memory. It comes in red, two-tone brown and stone and is available with a silence button which cuts off the transmitter for residential use and a recall button for use with a switchboard.

Both versions will store the last number called and will call it again automatically. Each costs £27 plus £2 extra quarterly rental. Orders can be placed now and

they will be available within about three weeks.

In view of the wide range of "unapproved" telephone designs available in many shops, British Telecom are often criticized for their somewhat entrenched attitudes. So I asked them, if they want people to buy their approved versions rather than the larger variety of designs available in specialist shops, why they impose an extra rental charge.

Maintenance, they said. Fewer special phones are sold, so replacement is more expensive — and when something goes wrong they do not bother to fiddle about replacing bits, they just provide a whole new machine. Also some of the phones are made abroad and have to be adapted for British use.

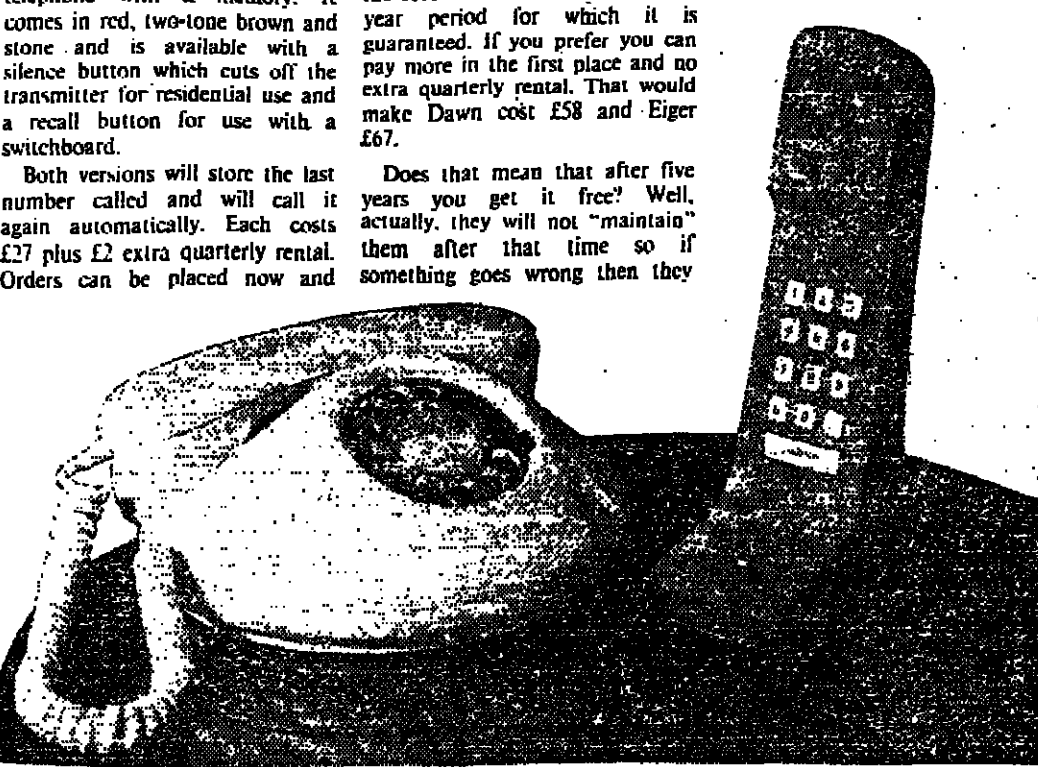
Moreover, they are "spreading the cost" of the unit over the five-year period for which it is guaranteed. If you prefer you can pay more in the first place and no extra quarterly rental. That would make Dawn cost £58 and Eiger £67.

Does that mean that after five years you get it free? Well, actually, they will not "maintain" them after that time so if something goes wrong then they

replace them with a standard phone.

Whoever heard of a telephone that was only expected to last for five years? Is there a European funny phone mountain waiting to be sold off to countries using tom-toms? If that is what is happening to my extra rental I might just pop round to an "illegal" telephone stockist and take the risk of getting British Telecom's wires in a twist.

Below: Dawn left, £18 and Eiger, £27 — two of the new designs approved by British Telecom and available through your local telephone sales office.



The togetherness of the long distance runners

A walk round Greenwich Park early tomorrow will surround any hermit who has not read a newspaper for the past few weeks and does not own a television. The sight of 7,500 people in running shorts daubing Vaseline on themselves can be perplexing.

It will be a special sort of Sunday, certainly for the athletes about to take part in the inaugural London Marathon and also for the city itself, as it takes a look into a part of its future. A future, in the athletics sense, in which the keywords are participation, sponsorship and fun.

Without the sponsors, Gillette who at least had the courage of other people's convictions, there would be no run. Without the participants there would also be no run. And without the fun there is no point in having the thing at all.

As a fun run there can be no arguing with the event's potential; as an athletics event, it sadly lacks quality. The course is flat, the conditions are right, yet not one of the world's top 30 marathon runners is likely to take part. The race lacks the glamour of foreign stars such as Waldemar Cierpinski, the double Olympic marathon champion from East Germany, and of domestic talent such as Ian Thompson, who had a time



London marathon hopefuls training in Battersea Park

Photograph by Brian Harris

of 2hrs 14min recently and has chosen to run a marathon in Cornwall this weekend.

Many top runners will be in Madrid for the world cross-country championships at which the sniveling team from the Ethiopian highlands will probably take the title away from England.

The spectacle will surely remain, however, and a sufficient head of publicity steam has developed to ensure the media success the organizers and the sponsors need if the event is to have any future.

Inevitably, the race has become a media event. If more journalists cover the race in shorts, singlets and literally breathless prose than from the sidelines, nobody would be surprised.

There is a difference of opinion in the marathon world about the London event. Some have dismissed it as just another fun run, not for the serious runner. Others recognize that they should support its proselytizing power; Joyce Smith, the third fastest woman of all time, says it is a chance

for anybody and everybody to meet the challenge of running a marathon.

London has come relatively late to the big city league. Boston has the world's oldest continuously run marathon; New York the most famous. The organizers of tomorrow's event have, to a certain extent, taken New York as their model, and it is a good one. The day brings carnival to New York, enabling the city to rid itself of its neuroses: one day in the year when the barriers, social and psychological,

can come down. It is, by all accounts, a great day for the human race, not just for the 16,000 participants.

As the London organizers say in their official programme: "Our objective is to believe, and to show, that the human race can be one joyous family, working together, achieving together, enjoying together." Cynics might say that sort of popcorn is fine for New York, but what about London, the old London, on a day, given the date, which is more likely

than not to be cold, wet and miserable?

Perhaps, by a form of inverse reasoning peculiar to the British, the race is exactly what is needed at a time when the national engine runs sluggish and spring is barely breaking through. London certainly has the runners—14,000 had to be turned away—but will the New York magic rub off on the spectators and create the same bond between runner and watcher as there? It might be different among the more resolute British, at least the first time. I hope not. London needs some magic.

In another, more practical way the race can become a power for good: the idea is that any future profits should be given to London boroughs, particularly the six the race is intended to help develop leisure facilities, especially in deprived areas. Before that, of course, the race must pay for itself: the organizers have made it clear they do not intend taking the begging bowl from the government, central or local. And that is another good thing. If the London marathon can stand on its own feet, so can other, larger bodies.

This time the race is on trial, and so to a certain extent are the spectators and the runners. Together they can breathe life into a new British sporting tradition.

Paul Harrison

Not the end of the Hollis affair

Suppose the Washington Post had accused J. Edgar Hoover, legendary head of the FBI, of being a KGB agent after an inquiry by, say, Mr. Clark Mifflin, would the world have believed it—and what would have been said had President Reagan taken four days to deny it?

Quite apart from the fact that the White House would have had to face daily public grillings by reporters (in contrast to the non-attributable yesterday under which we labour), the answer is that more likely the answer is that such an enormity must be true.

The same belief is now current here, not least among some politicians in both major parties after Mrs Thatcher's—and Lord Trend's—delay in correcting what Mr Chapman Pincher claimed Lord Trend believed about Sir Roger Hollis.

It is impossible yet to ascertain whether this was the effect intended by Mrs Thatcher and Lord Trend, or whether it was the earliest opportunity—the pre-text of waiting for the book's publication day, rather than the usual straight out with a denial last Monday, the usual collection first appeared. It may be that a denial would not have killed the story, but it must have altered the odds of the denial ever catching up with the allegation.

In my presence two Cabinet ministers ventured this week that if it were not being denied it must be true. This does not make it any truer but shows that Cabinet ministers, too, are as mortal, gullible and astonished as the rest of us. Based on Mrs Thatcher's statement, it was not only left-wing Labour MPs who went away muttering that this was not the end of the affair.

Some right-wing Tories, after praising Mrs Thatcher to her face in the Commons, were heard afterwards confiding to colleagues that there surely was more to come.

Have they been tricked by conspiracy theorists? Cannot we instead comfort ourselves that all this was very long ago, and not to be raked over incessantly? Mrs Thatcher's otherwise clear statements first called a joint meeting with the heads of MI5 and MI6, and the Secretary of the Cabinet. "The four of us sat down with my private secretary at No. 10. I reminded them that there was no room for complacency in view of what was going on—the attempted Soviet penetration, which still exists—and which reminded them of the past record, which is at the forefront of their minds all the time. Although I said that the matters that constantly weighed on their minds had originated several years earlier, nevertheless I wanted to go over the ground again."

He told how, when he was Prime Minister (1976-79), he called a joint meeting with the heads of MI5 and MI6, and the Secretary of the Cabinet. "The four of us sat down with my private secretary at No. 10. I reminded them that there was no room for complacency in view of what was going on—the attempted Soviet penetration, which still exists—and which reminded them of the past record, which is at the forefront of their minds all the time. Although I said that the matters that constantly weighed on their minds had originated several years earlier, nevertheless I wanted to go over the ground again."

He called the meeting, Mr Callaghan said, "for certain reasons that are not related to Mr Blunt". Anyhow, the security chiefs confirmed to Mr Callaghan that "those who might have been concerned with acts of treachery had, for the most or greater part, reached the end of their active life. They had either resigned or retired". They also discussed the vetting procedures, the recommendations made to get a better social balance, and the question whether any recent Soviet defectors had been planted.

Yet the headline political response has not been to look at accountability. It has been to urge a law against libel of the dead—an idea first raised by Mrs Gwyneth Dunwoody, now a shadow Health Minister, in regard to her father, Morgan Phillips and the Spectator case. A Labour government, be it remembered, brought the last Official Secrets Bill to the House of Commons. It was a law that said that if Mrs Thatcher is heading that way with her revelation of who leaked to Mr Pincher. Another reform for the new party to note.

"Finally, we went over once more the most important aspects of all, which was whether or not the security service should be given an absolute categorical answer. I do not believe that much if any of the earlier conspiracy theories survive as active today. What is true, I believe, is that there are people who have remained under cover and unknown to us who are still alive, though probably inactive."

This was not some private chat. Mr Callaghan had told reporters. It was his speech in the Commons on the Blunt debate in November 1979, and how quickly it has been overlooked. Mr Callaghan was keen to show that Prime Ministers were not passive in their relationship with the secret service. He saw no use in an inquiry into the Blunt affair but did want Lord Dunsford's commission to inquire into improvements could be made in coordination between Ministers and the security service and consider whether Parliament could be brought in.

The Prime Minister then said no need. Now, however, in dire if unadmitted reaction to the Pincher book, she has ordered Lord Dunsford and a couple of his pool of security commissioners to review vetting procedures on the grounds that they are updating. Yet Mr Mark Rees, when Home Secretary, had a ready changed recruitment of the security service, a completely different from those who came in from the universities during the vast expansion in 1959.

All this concerns the press problem of confidence back to the separate security service and the politicians responsible for them. If there were discussion in a parliamentary committee, there would at least be a beginning of accountability. Contrary to right-wing alarmists—who in the seventies used to worry that a could not trust the American setting up of Congressional committees on intelligence by not demonstrably damaged the effectiveness of the CIA and FBI.

Treasury knights have to face the grillings of Edward C. Cann's committee, yet more alarmists survive. Why would he, appalling recklessness, the heads of MI5 and MI6 were before select committees—they would know what they could not say.

One of the British sickness is secrecy, which permits both the act—and the false accusation of cover-up to flourish. Another is the over-reliance on non-attribution in news-gathering.

The Prime Minister had every opportunity, through her press spokesman, to nail the allegation the moment it appeared: the implications of leaving the matter undisturbed could not have escaped notice since every attempt to deny the penetration, which still exists—and which reminded them of the past record, which is at the forefront of their minds all the time. Although I said that the matters that constantly weighed on their minds had originated several years earlier, nevertheless I wanted to go over the ground again."

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When Ramsay Mac was marooned

On Thursday the former Labour MPs inspired by the Gang of Four made their break with Labour irrevocable by forming a new party, the Social Democrats. The weeks of gentle persuasion are over. There will be no more private meetings and last minute attempts to win them back to the fold. As David Marquand, the social democratic guru, wrote in his biography of Ramsay Mac: "A politician who breaks with his party at Westminster can be received back into the fold without much difficulty; the unforgivable sin is to fight against it at the hustings."

It is a cruel coincidence that the last major split in the party took place almost exactly 50 years ago. In 1931 Ramsay MacDonald led a small number of former Labour ministers into the National Government in the name of putting the nation before their party.

Then, too, unemployment was 2,500,000 and rising. Then, too, the dominant political debate was about whether it was essential for a government to balance its books. Until monetarism revived the argument, MacDonald and his Chancellor, Philip Snowden, had always been thought to be the victims of pre-Keynesian naivety.

The Labour movement quickly turned on its distinguished rebels. The Labour Party is founded on the need for trade unionists to be represented in Parliament and, as such, lives by the principles of majority decisions and solidarity. Those who split from the party are considered to be little more than political blacklegs who put their personal desires before the will of the majority. Defecting MPs can expect the same strident criticism laced with venom which greets any lowly picket breaker.

MacDonald and his National Labour colleagues were given a rough time. The portrait of MacDonald which hung in the offices of the London Labour Party was turned to the wall by Herbert Morrison. MacDonald's former election agent at Aberavon, Ivor Thomas, wrote to him: "The man who will be snarling, you will be abused, misrepresented and misunderstood". And so he was.



Ramsay MacDonald: a rough time

Labour's National Executive Committee ruled that all members and supporters of the National Government should be thrown out of the party. Beatrice Webb called the defectors "the rotten stuff" at the top of the tree. Clement Attlee was even more dismissive. Writing six years later, he remembered: "There was, in fact, no split, but only the shedding of a few leaves from the top of the tree, with a few parasitic appendages. The trunk and the main branches weathered the storm." Even MacDonald confided to his new ministers that "we are like marooned sailors on a dreary island".

The defectors were quickly turned to Labour's advantage and used to deflect criticisms of the failures of the 1929 Labour Government. MacDonald and his followers became all-purpose scapegoats, as with no doubt the Social Democrats. Within a short time Ramsay MacDonald, once the loved leader and revered first Labour Prime Minister, had become a by-word for deceit and treachery. "To do a Ramsay Mac" became the ultimate Labour sin.

MacDonald hardly fought back. He saw his defection as

political suicide and deterred younger members of his Government from following him. But he urged his supporters to "insist upon meeting the local party, putting the facts before it and compelling it to face them... Our friends ought to conduct a campaign of educational propaganda wherever they have influence—not for the purpose of splitting the Party but of saving it."

The Social Democrats will certainly face the same charges and abuse as their predecessors. By forming a separate party they will stand accused of splitting the traditional Labour vote and allowing the Tories in. If they cannot attract working-class support they will not succeed. As Roy Jenkins wrote in *What Matters Now* his response to Labour's 1970 general election defeat: "A social-democratic party without deep roots in the working-class movement would quickly fade into an unrepresentative intellectual sect."

It is hard to work against the traditional and romantic support which the Labour Party naturally attracts and this is because it has always put first the need to stand together. Whatever the divisions within the party, Labour supporters have learnt over generations that when it comes to the ballot box, all votes against Labour are for a Conservative of one sort or another.

It is, perhaps, worth recalling the advice given by Aneurin Bevan to Jennie Lee when she was deciding whether to remain with the Independent Labour Party. "Yes, you will be pure all right. But, remember, pure at the price of impotency. You will not influence the course of British politics by as much as a hair's breadth. Why don't you get into a monastery and do with it? Look yourself up in a cell away from the world and its wickedness... I tell you, it is the Labour Party or nothing. I know all its faults, all its dangers. But it is the party that we have taught millions of working people to look to and regard as their own. We can't undo what we have done. And I am by no means convinced that something cannot yet be done."

Nicholas Wapshott

Will flat fares make more people hop on a bus?

Whichever party wins control of County Hall in May, London's famous red buses are headed for the biggest change ever in their fares system.

From the end of next week there will be a single flat fare of 25p for any journey within 500 square miles of suburban London outside a ring roughly five miles from the centre. And the odds are that within 18 months, possibly nine, this outer zone will be joined by another two, a central and an inner, each with a similar flat fare for journeys entirely within it.

The amount of these fares has not yet been decided—it depends partly on whether Labour win control at County Hall and implement their promised 25p per cent cut—but present thinking is on the lines indicated in the accompanying map: 30p within a central area bounded roughly by Bayswater, Kensington, Elephant and Castle, the City, and Marylebone; and 25p in the inner ring bounded by Acton, Clapham, the Blackwall Tunnel, Finsbury Park, and Cricklewood.

The system bristles with difficulties, not least what to charge people for crossing from one zone to another. One possibility is "buffer zones" around each zonal boundary where tickets from either side are valid.

Present thinking favours simply charging both (or all three) fares for people traversing more than one zone. It would have the advantage of increasing the cost of radial bus journeys compared with circular, and so not attracting radial passengers from the railways, something both London Transport and British Rail are keen to avoid.

Flat fares are of course common on urban

public transport elsewhere, but LT have up till now fought shy of it because of the huge size of the capital, which suggested that flat fares would have to be too low for long journeys, with a heavy loss of revenue, or too high for short ones, with a heavy loss of passengers.

Experiments carried out in Harrow and Havering show that these fears were greatly exaggerated; and that the attractive simplicity of flat fares, which both public and politicians (of both major parties) are keen on, need not be the result of either sense. Based on Harrow and Havering, LT expect the new outer zone flat fare to yield a loss of only two per cent of 420m passenger journeys and an even smaller percentage loss of the £100m revenue in this zone. And these losses will be compensated by a 15 per cent gain in passenger mileage, so total bus usage would rise.

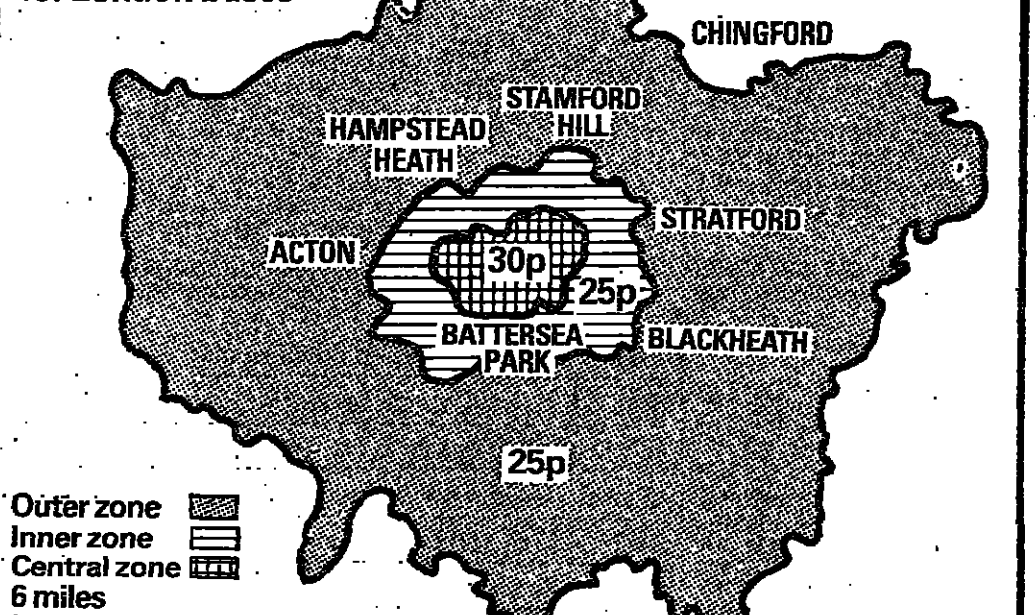
People who will have to pay 25p for a short journey now costing 12p are expected to take a "swing" and roundabouts view because the next day they may get for the same 25p a journey that now costs 50p or more.

In adopting flat fares, critics would say, LT are finally lumbering into the twentieth century long after everyone else. That may be, but there is no enthusiasm like that of the convert, and zonal bus fares will no doubt be followed by zonal train fares for both British Rail and LT within Greater London, and full interchangeability between bus and train. It makes sense.

Michael Bailey

Transport Correspondent

Proposed flat fare zones for London buses



Clutching a briefcase in rickshaw city

Letter from Dacca

After the ride there is the argument. The taxi driver, or the rickshaw man, hands back the proffered notes with an incipient sneer. He insists on the reason he originally demanded, about three times what you would pay a London cabbie for the same journey. People gather to enjoy the argument, instant street theatre. With a toss of his head and disdainful glance the man makes it plain that he, his family, and probably the whole country have been insulted.

You stick the notes in his shirt pocket. He throws them back. Then one of the hotel staff arrives, gives the man half of what you offered, sends him away with a flea in his ear and rounds it all off by trading vociferous remarks with the crowd which, having been splendidly entertained, reluctantly slopes off.

Apart from a relatively small number of battered buses and Japanese-built taxis, rickshaws are the mainstay of public transport in Dacca. Thousands of them swirl about the streets in great shoals.

The predominant mode of rickshaw makes Dacca one of the quietest of Asian cities, just the swish of tyres and tinkle of bells: a relief after Indian cities where drivers value the horn button above the brake pedal and where a man with a dud klaxon considers himself a form of enmesh.

Rickshawing in Dacca, while more relaxing than motoring, is not without its excitements.

The city is as flat as Holland, but rickshaws can go at a fair lick down some slight inclines, and being in a crowd of a hundred of them jostling at a roundabout is, by some stretch of the imagination, like being in a Roman chariot race.

Tassels and tassels flowers

Rickshaws have padded seats with just enough room for two slim-bodied people, and a folding pram hood for the monsoon. Their bodywork is beautifully painted in brave hoopia floral colours and plastic flowers, each its own carnival.

Rickshaw painting is a considerable industry. Alpine scenes are popular; so are birds and animals and dramatic episodes from films with pulsating heroines and villains gripping bloody daggers.

Caddy rickshaws are folk

art. Like flowers they relieve a largely unlovely city and brighten lives of toil.

Many rickshaw riders are from the fertile, beautiful, poverty-stricken countryside. They have come to make a living at this arduous trade and, as you would expect, they are thin, with knobby muscular legs.

Rickshaws are mechanically inefficient, with a long wheel-base and no gears. As well as people they carry substantial loads, being the draught vehicles of Dacca, and you see them creaking along under sacks of furniture and heavy packing cases. Of course, they are ecologically acceptable—no lead pollution here—but they are also a good way of wearing out the pedallers and you do not see many greyheads at the trade.

Dacca restricts rickshaw licences to about 14,000, but there are evidently many more rickshaws than that, some say as many as 50,000.

So hard to say no

A large number are owned by men who rent them out to riders on a shift basis. As well as being a fairly quick way of getting about, they are also cheap, only a few pence for a half-hour. But human nature being what it is, some rickshaw men, like taxi drivers, ask foreigners for outrageous fares.

While Bangladesh is one of the world's poorest countries it is also a centre of the aid industry. Hotel lobbies are full of purposeful foreigners clutching briefcases, calculators and blueprints—pioneers in the challenging business of developing the country.

It is hard for a foreigner, certain of his next expense account meal in his comfortable enclave, to say no when the thin smiling rickshaw man asks for 50 taka (37 pence) for a 10 taka ride.

The consciences of far men are easily played upon. They might be more reluctant to pay the £4 which some scallagaw of a taxi driver demands for even the shortest ride. So when the reckoning comes there is the inevitable rantum, the gathering of the crowd, the look of disdain, the throwing back of the notes, the placing of the flea in the ear.

Trevor Fishlock

Almost worth breaking a leg for...

"Mr Stanhope", said the consultant pointing at my bandage with his ballpoint, "is a classic example of a supracondylar fracture of the femur shaft, in balanced skeletal traction with the aid of a Steinmann's pin, a Thomas splint and a Pearson's knee flexion piece". His students, gathered round the hospital bed, stared gravely at my leg. So did I. It hung in a complex of weights and pulleys suspended like a gumboot fished out of the river.

Reporters are used to accidents, but generally not involving themselves. My own indiscreet crossing of a London street, however, had ended 20 minutes later on a trolley in Westminster Hospital where I was wheeled, still in my macintosh, down the leaning corridors while the ceiling lights shot past my upturned face like the gunships in *Star Wars*.

Probably a dislocated kneecap, someone told consolingly. "Have you home after treatment?" But the X-rays revealed a single fracture of a limb which will keep me on my back in bed for most of the next two months.

I had never been in hospital before, but after only a week I feel oddly reassured. It is less embarrassing than I feared to ask a pretty young girl for a bedpan or a bottle, perhaps because necessity is the mother

of more than just invention. And the clinical detachment with which I watched my debagging before being put to bed on that first afternoon had almost a textbook quality about it.

This could be because everyone is so nice. Nurses, of course, are supposed to be nice, having by and large the most enviable public image of all the professions. But one is always suspicious of those mental pictures unless one has viewed them at closer hand. I never quite believed that Arab women, for instance, could carry pichers of water on their heads without spilling any. Until I saw them do it or that Indian cattle were allowed to establish random chicanees in Calcutta streets during the rush hour—or even that the leaning tower of Pisa owed nothing to trick photography.

Seeing is believing, and the patience and thoughtfulness of nurses is almost worth breaking a leg for.

There are nine of us in our men's orthopaedic ward, ranging in age from about 17 to over 70. Some are walking wounded but the others, among them myself, are struggling to adjust to life on the level. The day begins at about 6.30 when the central fluorescent lights blink into life, although nobody actually bangs on my bed end as they did on my first day in the army.

It ends around 10.30 pm with a whimper or two as the patients on traction try to find another inch or two of their bottoms on which they have not been lying for the past 24 hours, perhaps days. It is never like this for James Bond, one complained the other night.

The mornings are absorbed almost entirely by hospital routine. Even a simple act of washing can take up to half an hour for someone caught in this kind of orthopaedic mantrap—with a nurse on hand to wash the parts that one's own hands cannot reach. There is the daily visit of the physiotherapist who pushes and pulls and remonstrates with patients whose adherence to the regimen of muscle-building exercises is not as strict as it could be.

There are the doctor's rounds, the delivery of the newspapers, the trolley for the hospital shop and of course the three-course meals (a choice of four dishes for each). Then in the afternoons the visitors arrive, children clattering over the polished floors and friends advancing nervously towards my bed, obviously wondering if "How are you feeling?" quite matches the occasion.

A Roman Catholic priest, sensually inquiring, toured the ward the other day. So did the library trolley ("fiction on this side, biography down there,

dear"). I am surprised by how little time I am left with, how many books remain unread in my locker and how little real cause I have to complain of being bored. But then I have been surprised by so much.

I have been surprised by the National Health Service. The NHS, as everyone knows, has more bureaucrats than beds and as many complaining employees as it has dissatisfied patients. No doubt I was fortunate in choosing to have my accident within an ambulance drive of one of London's top teaching hospitals. Still, the quality of service I have received from doctors, nurses, switchboard operators, porters, ambulance men, cleaners and the lady who brings the tea was amazingly good and, astonishingly, free. The NHS, on my experience during the past seven days, has looked like something well worth fighting for.

Most of all I am surprised when I reflect that once upon a time, only a week ago, I actually enjoyed lying in bed and thought of getting up something of a bore. Even the act of shaving in the bathroom mirror while listening to a radio report of traffic snarls in the Blackwall Tunnel is something that I will never take for granted again.

Henry Stanhope



POLAND IN PERIL AGAIN

It would be a tragic absurdity if Poland were brought to ruin by the lunacy of a few security police in Bydgoszcz—or perhaps by the irresponsibility of those who gave them their orders. Yet that is now a possibility. The beating of several members of Solidarity on March 19 was the first political violence to be perpetrated since the rise of the independent unions began last summer. It has made the situation more perilous than it has been for a long time. Tomorrow's meeting of the Central Committee will be crucial.

The details of the Bydgoszcz incident are still disputed. The basic facts are that six delegates from Solidarity were invited to attend a meeting of the Bydgoszcz District Council to discuss farmers' grievances. The meeting was then suddenly adjourned before they had a chance to speak, and some of the members of the council rushed out. The remainder tried to continue the meeting but were asked to leave by the head of the council. Later the local prosecutor arrived and told the Solidarity delegates that they would be ejected if they did not leave. According to their own version they merely asked for a little extra time to complete a discussion. According to the Government the local authorities got the impression that they were occupying the building. The security police then moved in with totally unnecessary brutality and made a special point of beating up Mr Rulewski, President of Bydgoszcz Solidarity.

Perhaps there was a genuine misunderstanding. Perhaps the policemen exceeded their instructions in the heat of the moment. Or perhaps there was a political decision somewhere up the line to make a show of force. What seems reasonably certain is that the order, if it was a show of force, did not come from the top leadership in Warsaw. Mr Kania, the party leader, and General Jaruzelski, the Prime Minister, understand the mood of the country and the strength of Solidarity well enough to know that the use of

violence in such circumstances is bound to provoke trouble. Solidarity at the grass roots is angry, restless and still deeply distrustful of the Government. It feels it cannot rely on the protection of the law or the voluntary support of the Government but must fight for every bit of space in which to exist. An attack on any individual member is therefore seen as an attack on its whole existence.

That is why it cannot give way—though it could postpone some of the wider demands, such as an amnesty for dissidents, which it has unwisely backed on to its specific request that those responsible for the Bydgoszcz incident be punished. Can the regime give way? It ought to be able to do so easily because it has every reason to dissociate itself from police brutality. The Prime Minister has already made an encouragingly sensible move by rejecting the first report by the Minister of Justice.

However, like Solidarity, the regime has to consider not only the incident itself but wider pressures. Moscow has been leaning on it hard to demonstrate its authority, principally by arresting dissidents. Worse still, since it comes from inside, is the pressure from hardliners within the Politburo who want the Government to declare a state of emergency and to use force against strikers. A few days ago they nearly succeeded in pushing through a vote to this effect and were defeated only by the Prime Minister's threat to resign.

How directly these people are following instructions from Moscow is impossible to say. Moscow can certainly be relied upon to misrepresent the situation sufficiently to believe that a show of force by Polish authorities might be successful. That Polish leaders could do so is difficult to imagine but it seems to be true of some individuals, unless they are deliberately trying to provoke a breakdown of order in which the Russians would have an excuse to intervene. This is possible, though the job of puppet ruler in such circumstances can hardly be very attractive.

The more charitable explanation is that desperation is growing in Warsaw and is affecting the judgment of otherwise realistic leaders. The economy is in a state of almost total collapse and the prospects for recovery are at best distant. Industrial and agricultural output have been dropping while wages are expected to rise by at least 17 per cent this year. Food supplies are dwindling fast, and Poland's debt to the West is now well over \$20,000m. In effect, Poland is bankrupt but nobody can afford to let it collapse. On top of this the party itself is in turmoil, with reformism fermenting at the lower levels to such an extent that it has become too risky to hold a party congress.

Yet in all this there are hopeful elements. One of the most surprising and encouraging aspects of the whole crisis has been the moderation and realism shown by almost all the responsible people involved. The Church, the leaders of Solidarity and even the dissidents have all come to accept the realities of Poland's political and geographical situation. They have been doing their best to prop up the existing regime while trying to negotiate with it. They have not used the power they have to sweep it away. They believe, and the realists in the party leadership believe, that compromise is possible, that the system could in fact learn to accommodate new union structures and other new forms of representation, and that in the long run it is more likely to be swept away if it does not do so.

Part of the trouble is that Moscow does not believe this, but resistance is also powerful from those within the Polish apparatus who cannot conceive of renegotiating the power structure of the country. If they prevail within the next few days they will have destroyed an historic chance for the country to adapt the system in a way which might even, in the long run, be in Moscow's interest because it would reduce the likelihood of future explosions and unpredictable chain reactions.

MR MUGABE DESERVES HIS MONEY

The result of the reconstruction conference in Salisbury is an overwhelming international vote of confidence in Mr Mugabe and his Minister of Economic Planning, Mr Chidzero. They asked, rather fiercely, for \$800 million to finance a three-year plan to heal the ravages of the civil war and set Zimbabwe up as the pivotal black state in central Africa. They got it all and more—nearly \$890 million in loans and grants (including some rescheduling of previous debts). Starting with some £260 million on the table, the conference proceeded to add another £620 million in pledges of aid. Amounting to over £100 per head of population this must be one of the biggest aid packages ever tented by a "developing" country.

The problem with aid has always been to absorb it—to convert lines of credit into productive agricultural or industrial enterprises, efficient farming, factories and services generating jobs by the hundred thousand. Too much aid generates little but administration, imports of food or luxuries, and, worse still,

inflation. Zimbabwe, however, is potentially rich and receptive—in the Nigeria class. Its mineral production, already growing, is capable of great expansion. The sanctions imposed on the illegal Smith regime fostered a wide range of surprisingly viable secondary manufacturing enterprises. Its agriculture is recovering.

As in Kenya, land settlement (in contrast to expropriation) involves expensively buying out owners as well as ploughing money in. Yet last year output generally rose 15 per cent and exports by a third, while fiscal incentives produced an almost embarrassing maize surplus. Zimbabwe is the only large African exporter of subsistence foods apart from South Africa (a solid inheritance, as in Kenya, from white farming prowess). Such facts have impressed investors. The World Bank contribution heads the list and Britain follows with £123 million. The United States, France, West Germany and Scandinavia have made useful contributions, though Japan (although no doubt expecting a large share of future Yugoslav) a meagre one. Even Yugoslavia invested something,

as did China, which built the Tazara railway as a contribution to better central African communications. Zimbabwe should now know who her friends are. Russia did not attend, and contributes nothing, though its representatives were engaged in behind-the-scenes bilateral talks whose outcome has yet to be revealed.

The test will be Zimbabwe's own enterprise and administrative ability and integrity. The West pins evident hope to its becoming a black counterpoise to South Africa, a new model for emulation. But Zimbabwe, dominated by South Africa, much as Canada is by the United States, and Pretoria is rubbing salt in the wound by planning new tariffs on Zimbabwean manufactures. This dependence can only be alleviated by alternative communications to the sea for all central Africa. If the West hopes for a strong, prosperous, non-racial Zimbabwe as a new centre of gravity in Africa it will have to reconsider the communications network (and its political implications). To extend it would cost a lot—but might prove cheaper than leaving South Africa largely in control of the economies of Zimbabwe and its neighbours.

M15 INQUIRY: A CONFUSION OF ROLES

Mr Chapman Pincher investigated M15 and now M15 is investigating Mr Pincher and his sources. It is somewhat incestuous and approaching the ridiculous. Mrs Thatcher gave a commendable performance in Parliament in setting out most of the relevant facts on the question of Sir Roger Hollis, but she has erred in authorizing a second security inquiry within weeks concerning the publication of information by journalists: the first followed the so-called Budget leaks in the Sunday newspapers.

It is very curious that the Prime Minister should one day be describing Mr Pincher's book as inaccurate and distorted and the next lending credibility to it by the full force of an M15 investigation. The security officers are not, presumably, engaged as correctors of the press, finding out how Mr Pincher made his alleged errors. But the real question is the misuse of M15 energies. It is a crucial arm of government to protect the nation from betrayal to its enemies. It is not to protect the Government from embarrassment in the press. Every recent government of both parties has confused these purposes.

In recent years policemen have been busy finding the source of embarrassment to government from reports about child benefit allowance or railway closures, to name but two of the more pertinent inquiries, whereas it is politicians who should be busy worrying away at the root problem. It is their inescapable fate to be embarrassed if they get it wrong; it is the duty of the journalist to report it; and it is the right of the public to know it.

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regulated, but it should be possible, if so besieged, for London Transport to reach into its bureaucracy for someone enlightened enough to mark out busking areas on tube stations and then issue licences for, say, a week at a time to anyone who could satisfy a small audition panel that he is not merely a beggar or confidence artist in disguise. Who knows what talents might be nurtured to the drumming of the southbound Bakerloo or the steady clatter of the Circle?

More important, however, is that passengers would have their spirits briefly lifted as they trudged the otherwise uncaring corridors. Somebody up there, they would feel, has recognized their humanity, their need for something more than a ticket and a train. Perhaps they would even feel slightly less angry at the huge price now demanded for a service which at the moment not only denies art but neglects function.

Holbein mystery unravelled

From Mr John Fletcher
The acquisition of Holbein's "Allegory of the Old and New Testaments" by the National Gallery of Scotland, reported by your Salt Room Correspondent on March 14, offers the public the opportunity to see a picture with an unusual historical background and of unsuspected significance. Many religious works such as altarpieces were painted by Hans Holbein the Younger, but this picture is the only one so far identified that has a theological subject. Twenty years ago, Grossmann detected in it numerous stylistic features characteristic of Holbein's work but he had no way of determining its provenance or its precise date, although he narrowed the latter to c.1522-30.

We now know that a northern European origin is implied by the panel being made of oak. Such a provenance is puzzling because, after leaving Basel for England via Antwerp in 1526, Holbein was in no northern city where the Lutheran doctrine portrayed in the painting was tolerated by the political authorities. My tree-ring analysis, however, has pinpointed Antwerp, the richest commercial city of the time, as the source of its panel. Various heretical activities flourished there in the 1520s to promote the enclaves of wealthy merchants, one such being Tyndale's translation of the Bible together with the printing of copies to send to England, where they annoyed Henry VIII. In the school of painting at Antwerp by Holbein a bird of passage, would have formed a comparable underground activity. Indeed, Antwerp as the source of this painting is not only feasible but virtually no other city is remotely likely.

No doubt Holbein needed the money that this commission brought him. It should be remembered when admiring the painting at Edinburgh that he was taking a calculated risk in painting this subject. His subsequent career in England could have been very different had his role in its creation been "leaked" to Henry VIII.

The brevity of Holbein's stay at Antwerp, only a month or so, explains why no other painting with such a definite Protestant bias is known from his hand. Indeed, it may well be that this picture and the emblematic painting, "Man on Horseback", recently acquired by the J. Paul Getty Museum in California, were the only two painted by Holbein in his short time at Antwerp.

The painting is not the first pictorial representation of the doctrine of the Lutheran faith, it is a very early one. The British public must be grateful to the trustees of the Weld Estate and to those who have contributed to its purchase for this reason. Indeed, it may well be that this picture and the emblematic painting, "Man on Horseback", recently acquired by the J. Paul Getty Museum in California, were the only two painted by Holbein in his short time at Antwerp.

JOHN FLETCHER, Oxford University Research Laboratory for Archaeology and the History of Art, 6 Keeble Road, Oxford, March 18.

Abduction of Mr Biggs

From Dr D. Sayer
Sir, When Korean dissidents are forcibly abducted from their Japanese exile, we condemn. When Colonel Gaddafi's execution squads ply their trade on British soil, we protest. What then are we to make of the current capers in the Caribbean?

Mr Biggs would appear to be the victim of a kidnapping. The "operation" of Mr Miller and his "ex-SAS" colleagues is, in plainer language, a piece of violent and lawless thuggery which would not be tolerated anywhere the rule of law prevails. To seek Mr Biggs's extradition from Barbados under present circumstances condones that thuggery and makes a mockery of that law. Having failed to secure Mr Biggs's departure from Barbados by legal means, the British Government must leave him where he is.

DEREK SAYER, University of Glasgow (Department of Sociology), 61 Sharnpark Avenue, The University, Glasgow, March 26.

From Mr D. N. L. Levy and Mr K. J. O'Connell
Sir, It is important to correct an error in R. M. Francis's letter (March 27) in which he claimed that the train driver in the Great Train Robbery died because of "an assault during the carrying out of that crime".

The robbery took place in August, 1963. The train driver, Mr Jack Mills, died of a heart attack six and a half years later at the age of 63. When he died the West Cheshire Coroner stated: "I am aware that Mr Mills sustained a head injury during the course of the train robbery in 1963. In my opinion there is nothing to connect this incident with the cause of death."

Yours faithfully, DAVID N. L. LEVY, 104 Hamilton Terrace, NW8. KEVIN J. O'CONNELL, 48 Cholmeley Gardens, NW6, March 27.

New ship, old crew?

From Professor F. P. Lisowski
Sir, From this island on the other side of the Eurasian continent it does seem as if a rather noisy hullabaloo has been generated by the media in your island about a new Social Democratic Party. New the party may appear, but the majority of its leadership surely is made up of the same rather discredited old management that was once swept out of office by the country. Thus we witness the return of a board of mismanagement under a new guise. What is it trying to sell?

Yours faithfully, F. P. LISOWSKI, Department of Anatomy, University of Hong Kong, Hong Kong, March 20.

How far has women's equality progressed?

From the Chairman of the Equal Opportunities Commission
Sir, The professional women who wrote with Mrs Joanna Bogle to *The Times* on the subject of women and sex discrimination (March 25) have missed the point about equal opportunities being provided for both sexes.

They may have been successful in their chosen spheres; but their own successes are not reflected nationally. The majority of women's jobs are still unappreciated because women are clustered in low-paid, low-status occupations. On average women still only earn three-quarters of what men earn per hour and 91 per cent of office cleaners, 83 per cent of telephoneists, 82 per cent of shop assistants are women. The last census showed that only 11 per cent of management jobs were held by women.

Even in the professions to which your correspondents belong, they are in a minority. In medicine, only 16 per cent of general practitioners are women, only 12 per cent of university lecturers and 2 per cent of university professors are women, and 25 per cent of journalists are women. The percentage of women physicists and geologists is negligible. Although over 90 per cent of nurses are women, many of the top nursing posts are held by men. The Equal Opportunities Commission was set up to promote equality between the sexes, as well as equality in pay, in work and in education. In the workplace we are trying to ensure that women get the training they need, the promotion they deserve, and the job opportunities they require when they return to work after bringing up their families. In the school and colleges, we want to see both boys and girls having access to all subjects in the curriculum.

Until the proportion of girls getting CSEs and O and A levels in mathematics, the sciences and technical subjects improves, many careers will continue to be closed to women, and they will be continually excluded from representative ships and training opportunities later in life. Boys also deserve the chance to learn domestic science skills to be good husbands and fathers, and to study languages as much as girls do at present; that would certainly help the export drive.

There have been many advances in equality in the past five years, which have been built on the efforts of many women this century, but there is more to do and the EOC is charged with this responsibility and intends to carry it out. Yours faithfully, BETTY LOCKWOOD, Equal Opportunities Commission, Grosvenor House, Quay Street, Manchester, March 26.

From Sir Mark Norman
Sir, Excellently argued, the counter-"unisex" viewpoint of Mrs Joanna Bogle and others (March 25) is so redolent of common sense as surely to reflect the attitude of the majority of voters. To your correspondents' diverse occupations within which wise women naturally suc-

Help for El Salvador

From Mr Hugh Thomas
Sir, Mr Michael Foot described on BBC *Panorama* (March 23) the Prime Minister as being "wrong and evil" in her support of President Reagan in respect of his backing for President Duarte of El Salvador.

Those are strong words. They are wrong. President Duarte is a democrat. He won a presidential election in 1972. He plans new elections in the future, probably next year. His government has embarked upon an exceptionally ambitious programme of agrarian reform which, if the communists guerrillas would stop murdering its organizers, would transform conditions in the Salvadoran countryside (for example, a March 1980, all estates larger than 1,250 acres became producer-cooperatives, with compensation paid to old landholders on the basis of 1976-77 tax returns).

No doubt the army and police in El Salvador have associations with

Threat to historic sites

From Mr J. F. O. Switzer
Sir, Lord Kennet (March 23) has drawn attention to irreparable damage that will be done to the setting of Beverley Minster if the open field immediately adjoining it has houses built on it. The district council has given itself permission for this development, which is contrary to the structure plan, and the Department of the Environment will not intervene because it asserts that the Minister is not of national importance. (*The Times*, March 23).

This is just the kind of case that one feared would occur as the result of changes made to planning law by the Local Government Planning and Land Act, 1980. County councils, which prepare structure plans, have been deprived of powers to ensure that development conforms to those plans. What safeguard or remedy has the public now got if the Department of the Environment will not intervene when a district council takes a decision which destroys part of the national heritage?

The Secretary of State for the Environment is charged with the duty of "securing consistency and continuity in the framing and execution of a national policy with respect to the use and development of land". Mr Heseltine has said that he will seek to fulfil the aim of that duty and that "it must be an underlying obligation on the Secretary of State in respect of planning and its execution". He has stated that he will not hesitate to call in applications which are of national importance. But if he

ceed can of course be added so many others—notably the arts, business, politics, sport—the list is endless. And after motherhood perhaps the most important role is in that unique support and stimulus that woman brings to man when he is in need, when the family is threatened, when whatever must be achieved is simply not within his competence without her special contribution.

So let us indeed "abolish this excessive and wasteful refrain from prejudicing children against natural development with due pride in their different attributes and opportunities, and recognize that sensible people do not need costly commissions to generate a strong distaste for the chauvinist male."

Yours faithfully, MARK NORMAN, Wilcote Manor, Charlbury, Oxfordshire.

From Mrs V. I. Quick
Sir, How typical of a group of well-educated, professional women to write from a Dutch address, calling for the abolition of the Equal Opportunities Commission and boldly proclaiming that "in pursuing our various careers we never felt the need for any such organization" (letter, March 25). I am sure they did not.

However, speaking as a working-class woman, now in her seventies and only recently retired, I can only regret the fact that the EOC was not around when I was young. Perhaps then my teachers would have been enlightened enough not to force me to take "girls' subjects" such as domestic science and my parents might have seen the wisdom in allowing me to continue my studies, rather than insisting that I leave school at 14 and go out to work to supplement the family income.

I started work as a shop assistant and, nearly 40 years later, I retired as one. For most of that time I have done the only sort of work open to women like me, who lacked educational opportunities when young and therefore possess no formal qualifications; the jobs have been poorly paid and low in status and range from enamelling coat-hangers in a factory (during the Depression, when I was the only breadwinner in the family) to part-time job in the local greengrocer's shop when my daughter was small. During all this time I have also run a home, brought up two children, and cared for many years for an ailing and dependent mother until her death. I have coped single-handed with the household chores because, in my family, that was what wives and mothers were expected to do.

I want life to offer a little more to my daughter and granddaughters; I want them to live in a society which values the talents and aspirations of all its members, not just those of the men. And I applaud the efforts of the Equal Opportunities Commission which is working so hard to end the deep-rooted and destructive prejudice which still exists against women. Ironically it is the self-interest of women such as Mrs Bogle which fuels the flames of this prejudice. Long may the EOC flourish!

Yours faithfully, V. I. QUICK, 2 Shelley Close, High Street, Langley, Slough, Berkshire, March 25.

highly unsavoury counter-revolutionary action groups." But if we are interested in the emergence in El Salvador of an open society with regular elections, the survival of free enterprise and creative foreign investment, President Duarte's coalition government offers the best bet, as I believe Mr Foot will eventually come to recognize.

The *Panorama* programme's treatment of El Salvador would have been better if, instead of a condescending attitude to the country ("every banana republic has its military band"), it made a more serious effort to explore the real ideology of the "Frente Morri Liberation Front", which seeks to destroy President Duarte; any chance of that body contemplating a free election is as remote as evenuality as one being held in Cuba. Yours faithfully, HUGH THOMAS, Centre for Policy Studies, 8 Wilfred Street, SW1, March 25.

defines "national importance" by reference only to the size of the proposed development, I suggest that he is failing to carry out the duty laid on him by Parliament.

He must be prepared to intervene not only in the case of a single important building such as Beverley Minster, but also in those all too familiar cases where small but significant fust about-head decisions—each said to be much too insignificant to fuss about—add cumulatively to a mess which becomes a major blot on the landscape. Having removed county councils from the scene, the Secretary of State must now be prepared to intervene at an early stage in quite small local matters if the public interest is to be properly safeguarded.

Yours faithfully, J. F. O. SWITZER, Sidney Sussex College, Cambridge, March 26.

The Hayman case

From Mr Patrick Ide
Sir, If it became compulsory to engrave Thomas Jefferson's proposal on shaving mirrors (Mr Enderby's letter today—March 25) I feel sure that there would be an immediate and major rise in the growth of beard faunism.

Yours faithfully, PATRICK IDE, Kiddle Hill Farm, Coleman's Hatch, Hatfield, Herts, March 25.

British passport in true colours

From Mr Lewis Massey
Sir, I must take issue with you about the general tone of your leading article, "The Burgundy British" (March 21), in which you state that our present passport possesses "some shreds of great-power swagger". Let us look at the history of that bureaucratic booklet: Before the First World War, when Britain was at the peak of her imperial power, passports were totally unnecessary for travel in most countries of Europe (except, significantly, in Tsarist Russia) and of course in the British Empire. The Baecker guides of the period (I have a few) repeatedly say that "passports are unnecessary, except for obtaining delivery of registered letters". Our best passport during that time was the golden sovereign. The actual document consisted of a single sheet of thin parchment, measuring 15 by 11 inches ("imperial quarto"), I have one before me in 1910 by the British Consul in Munich. It is embellished at the top with an engraved royal coat of arms, and contains nothing of the familiar "request and require" wording. It has no photograph of bearer.

Immediately after the war British passports became much larger and, by then, indispensable. They still consisted of a single sheet, but were folded like a map. The present booklet was introduced in about 1925. At this period our world power status was already in a slow decline, while travel generally was becoming more beset with the need for visas and, later, by exchange control regulations.

Our passport, in its present form, is therefore a mere landmark in the decline of our country and certainly does not deserve to be fought for on the beaches, as you suggest. As for the cost of the proposed new passport, being an Englishman, I would consider Nuts St Georges more appropriate than Burgundy. Yours faithfully, LEWIS MASSEY, 20 Orchard Rise, Groombridge, Tunbridge Wells, March 22.

Civil Service strikes

From Mr M. D. Barnett
Sir, Your leading article of March 25 assumes that in the Civil Service dispute the employers would be unable to sack individuals who take industrial action technically falling short of breaking their contracts of employment without incurring the costs of tribunal awards for unfair dismissal. Section 62 of the Employment Protection (Consolidation) Act, 1978, precludes an unfair dismissal claim by an employee if he is taking part in a strike or other industrial action.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal in a very recent case, *Patley Packing Cases Ltd v. Fox and Others*, IRLR vol 10 no 3 p 120-122, said that other industrial action does not imply necessarily contract breaches. It is the motives for the action that matter, so that even a ban by employers on non-contractual overtime may constitute other industrial action and hence there would be no worries for the employer as far as tribunal cases are concerned.

It appears, therefore, that the law will not stand in the way of the sackings you advocate in the present dispute. Yours faithfully, M. D. BARNETT, Industrial Relations Officer, The National Federation of Clay Industries Ltd, West End Green, Sheffield, South Yorkshire, March 26.

Bound tribute

From Mr John Winton
Sir, As a publisher of books of naval history, in a very small way of business, I am required by a Mr A. T. Small, Agent, of 100 Euston Street, NW1, to deliver to him four copies of each book I publish. This is to comply with the provisions of the Copyright Act 1911 (1 & 2 Geo V, ch 46, section 15).

The four copies are for the four Legal Deposit Libraries: the Bodleian Library, Oxford, the University Library, Cambridge, the National Library of Scotland, Edinburgh and the Library of Trinity College, Dublin. Why should publishers in the United Kingdom be compelled by law to send free copies of their books, also paying postage and packing, for the benefit of a library in Dublin, which is not in the United Kingdom? It seems high time this law was amended.

Yours sincerely, JOHN WINTON, Bluejacket Books, Llandudno, Chwyd.

Worse than the disease
From Dr C. A. S. Wink
Sir, Lord Bowden (March 24) approves of the way the medical profession has derived a word, iatrogenic, to describe the harm it sometimes does, and suggests iatrogenic for harm done by politicians. I think iatrogenic should be reserved for doctors, parents and medical schools; medical mishaps should be iatropathic.

There are no words to describe the harm done by politicians, harm caused by indifference rather than ineptitude, but the signs and symptoms our leaders have been known to show—compulsive logorrhoea, delusions of grandeur, tunnel vision and so forth—tempt one to name syndromes after them: Foot syndrome, or Footing for example. Dr Hugh Letang's book, *The Pathology of Leadership*, describes how crucial decisions of state have from time to time been made when the politician's or statesman's judgment was impaired by illness: Lord Bowden, I think, is referring rather to enormities brought about by politicians apparently in good health. For this malcondition I can only prescribe egocentism. Yours faithfully, C. A. S. WINK, 100 Wigmore Street, W1.



COURT CIRCULAR

shire hanging tapestries: Rosemary Lambert. Victoria and Albert Museum, 12; Oriental carpets, Eileen Graham. Victoria and Albert Museum, 3; Paul Gauguin art is an abstraction, Laurence Bradbury. Tate Gallery, 3; Pissaro's world, Anne Marie Matley. National Gallery,

Science report

London, meet Holborn Under-
ground station, 11: Parliament
and Whitehall, meet Westminster
station, 2.30:
Music: Sounds Hungarian, pre-
sented by Doreen and Michael
Muskett, Purcell Room, 2.45:

The Lord Mayor and the Lady Mayoress held a dinner party at Mansion House yesterday to mark the retirement of the Bishop of London. The other guests included: the Swedish Ambassador and Mrs. Porck; Mrs. Gerald Ellison, Mr. Jonathan Ellison, Lady Humphreys, Mr and Mrs. Jonathan Jameson, Colonel and Alderman Lord and Lady Maie, Brigadier and Mrs. Geoffrey Rimsbut, and Mrs. Edward Storer and Alderman Sir Bernhard and the Hon. Lady Walpole.


Mr. A. J. Ereleigh, presided.

Among the other surprises of the sale was a parkland view of "hunters and a groom", by George Garrard, for which Agnew's paid £19,000 (estimate £5,000 to £8,000). Minor pictures, on the other hand, were in general shunned.

in 1944 was unusual in that it took place while he was still in government service, a circumstance to which he always later attributed the fact that his initial capital contribution was £12.10s. He quickly rose to eminence in the United Kingdom partnership, and repre-

He is survived by his wife Betty, whom he married in 1934, and a son. Throughout his strenuous career he was sustained by her support, so that both in Britain and in many places overseas she became almost as familiar and respected a figure as Ted Parker himself.

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THE TIMES
BUSINESS NEWS

Stock markets

FT Index 521.3, up 2.4
FT Gilts 70.16, down 0.02

Sterling

\$2.280, down 225 points
Index 100.4, down 0.5

Dollar

Index 100.7, up 1.0
DM 2.1160, up 50 points

Gold

\$539.50, unchanged

Money

3 mth sterling 124-127
3 mth Euro 154-148
6 mth Euro 154-154

IN BRIEF

US Pru
bid for
Bache may
be rivalled

By Tim Carrington

The Belzberg family of Canada is considering a counter offer to top Prudential Insurance Company of America's \$32.4 share or \$385m (£171m) bid for Bache Group securities firm. Mr Danny Belzberg, executive vice-president of Bel Fran Investments, a holding company for the Belzbergs' ventures, said the family had not decided to sell its 22.6 per cent stake in Bache to Prudential and that other "options" were being explored.

Prudential's offer arose from a determined effort by Bache's management to effect a gradual takeover by the Belzbergs. When the acquisition proposal was made last week, the principal investment banker involved said the Belzbergs stood to make about \$45m profit by selling their Bache holdings to the insurance giant.

On the New York Stock Exchange on Thursday, Bache common closed at \$31.625, up 121 cents. Wall Street traders have been buying the stock in anticipation that Prudential's offer will go through. There is speculation that Mr Samuel Belzberg is meeting with potential partners in Europe to discuss a joint venture to build the insurance company.

Exploration awards

Mr Hamish Gray, the Minister of State for Energy, said that 46 on shore drilling exploration and 12 production licences for England and central Scotland had been issued by the Government and further awards were expected soon.

Gold options

The European Options Exchange will begin gold options trading on April 2. The initial series will be call/put options or 10 troy ounces of gold for May, August and November at striking prices of \$500, \$525 and \$550 an ounce.

No more guildercents

The Netherlands Government has stopped making the guilders cent coin—worth about four cents of an American cent—because it costs three times its value to make it, the finance department said.

Gilgate directors ban

The High Court has confirmed that three directors of Gilgate Holdings, the insurance and property group which is the subject of a Department of Trade investigation, have been banned from holding directorships.

JS miners strike

Thousands of American coal miners went on strike yesterday upon the expiration of their wage contracts, which were signed three years ago after an 11-day strike. This year's strike is likely to be brief.

Vall Street down

The Dow Jones industrial average closed 10.38 points down at 954.78. The S&P 500 was 22.74, and E was 0.547210.

First index-linked gilts
oversubscribed as
institutions take up offer

By John Whitmore

The Government's first offer of marketable index-linked stock was oversubscribed and allotted to successful applicants on the basis of a real return of two per cent per annum. Both interest and principle payments will be linked to the retail price index.

Contrary to earlier expectations that the allotment price would be bid up to somewhere between 105 and 115, the Bank of England announced last night that the allotment price for the £1,000m issue of two per cent index-linked Treasury stock 1996 would be exactly 100.

The Bank of England declined to give details of either the size of the total application for the stock or the range of bids that it received. After the initial enthusiasm that greeted the stock—it was first announced in Sir Geoffrey Howe's Budget speech on March 10—many pension fund managers have clearly concluded that they could not justify paying a substantial premium for such an issue.

Although most fund managers feel they should be looking for real returns of around 3.5 per cent per year, it has been generally accepted that it is worth paying some form of premium for a stock which, unlike an equity, for instance, offers certainty of return.

The burning question over the past fortnight has been the size of that premium. While some brokers have been suggesting that a fairly large premium might be justified, most of the market has been decidedly more cautious.

All the Bank of England would disclose yesterday was that bids above 100 had been shorted in full at 100, and that bids at 100 had been allotted on the basis of applications up to £1m, in full; applications

above £1m but less than £2m, allotted £1m; applications of £2m and above, allotted \$5 per cent.

The big interest now will be the way the price of the new stock behaves when dealings start on Monday. The question is whether pension funds that put in staggered bids, including bids below par, will want to top up their holdings, or whether the lower than expected allotment price has provided a clear message that issues of index-linked debt are not worth the premium they are prepared to accept.

The way the stock behaves over the coming weeks will, of course, be a key in determining whether or not the Government decides to go ahead with a second issue later in the year and, if so, what terms it will offer.

The pressure for the Government to experiment with index-linked stocks in the capital market has been building up for some time. Although restricted issues of index-linked Treasury Bonds have been available to personal savers for some years, with the age restriction coming down from 65 to 50, the Government had previously shied away from larger issues of index-linked debt to major institutional investors.

There was a strong feeling that the extension of debt indexation would be seen both as a weakening of resolve in the battle against inflation and as a move that could have wide implications for the corporate sector and the financial system as a whole.

Even now, the initial issue of index-linked Treasury stock has been confined to pension funds. It is not yet clear whether the Government will eventually open up this market to other long-term investors.

The go-ahead for the present issue has come after a steady

fall in the annual rate of inflation over recent months, a tough Budget, and the growing feeling that, if inflation should move back to more normal levels over the long term, high coupon conventional debt will prove unnecessarily expensive to service.

At yesterday's weekly Treasury Bill tender, the average rate of discount at which bids were allotted eased from 11.58 to 11.53 per cent. The Bank decided not to give notice of any dealing rates for next week, a decision consistent with its recent moves towards allowing market forces a greater influence in the determination of short-term interest rates.

In the City, attitudes towards indexation tend to be ambivalent. Although many of the arguments put forward in favour of the indexation of long-term financial contracts are accepted, there is also a strong feeling that indexation could tempt governments into more inflationary policies, and to bid down short-term interest rates at times when they should clearly be raising them.

On a more conventional note, the Bank of England announced yesterday the offer of £1,000m of Treasury 11 per cent 1985 stock next Wednesday.

The stock is being offered at a minimum tender price of £96.50 per cent, at which level it produces a flat yield of 11.92 per cent and a gross redemption yield of 12.6 per cent. The stock is payable as to £15 per cent on application; £15 per cent on May 8; and the balance on June 12.

This will give the Government funds over the April, May and June banking months, part of which will go towards the refinancing of the £900m Exchequer 8 per cent 1981 issue, due for redemption on the day of the final call.

New savings issue to
be launched in May

By Margaret Stode

A new 21st issue of National Savings Certificates is to go on sale on May 11 to replace the 19th issue which is bringing in about £80m a week. The revamped issue of "Granny Bonds" launched in November, was the 20th.

The new issue will be sold in £10 units, with a maximum individual holding of £5,000, and will be worth £15.40 after five years. This represents an overall compound interest rate of 8.02 per cent, equivalent to 12.5 per cent gross for basic rate taxpayers.

The departure of the 19th issue, which is likely to be withdrawn on May 9, has been expected for some time. Paying 10.5 per cent net or 14.7 per cent gross its return is outstandingly competitive now that interest rates in general are falling. The issue, launched in February 1980, has attracted £1,300m in savings.

Normally, the Chancellor uses his Budget speech as an opportunity to introduce a new issue of National Savings Certificates. Absence of such an announcement this year came as a surprise.

The sceptics felt that the Government had deliberately

held its hand till after the building societies had announced by how much they intended cutting their investment rates.

In the event the societies brought the share rate down from 9.25 per cent (13.14 per cent gross) to 8.5 per cent (12.14 per cent), four days later.

The Government yesterday specified the cut that would be applied to the interest rate on the National Savings Bank investment account. The current 15 per cent interest rate will be trimmed to 13 per cent on May 1.

Both the investment account and the 21st issue of savings certificates will keep a competitive edge over bank deposits and building society shares. At the moment, "Granny" bonds, the third plan for personal savings, are languishing a little, with sales now down to under £30m a week.

But on April 6 a new wave of investors, the recently qualified 50 to 60 year olds, will be able to buy these index-linked certificates. A rush is expected.

Personal Investment and Finance, page 18

Hughes looks set to beat
Plessey for £20m order

By Kenneth Owen

The contract for key air defence radar installations for the Royal Air Force may go to an American company, Hughes Aircraft, which is said to have put in the lowest bid.

If these unofficial reports are true, Hughes would automatically be given the £20m order in preference to Britain's Plessey, which has put in a joint bid with I.T.T. of the United States. This is because the Ministry of Defence has opted for Nato funding for much of the contract and Nato rules say that the lowest bidder must receive the award over things being equal.

"Other things being equal"

means that the various bids must be first assessed as technically acceptable. Three bids were received for the MOD contract—from Plessey/ITT, Hughes, and Thomson-CSF of France. All apparently met the technical requirements.

The Ministry of Defence appears to be delaying its decision, and the bidders have been asked to extend the period of validity of their quotations to mid-April.

Last year, a £10m contract for two RAF radars for Scottish sites was awarded to General Electric of the United States. The present order will be for East-coast radar sites; a third round of orders will follow. If

IMF team criticizes Italian economy

From John Earle

Rome, March 27
In a critical assessment of the Italian economy, a team from the International Monetary Fund has appealed to the Government to reform the system of automatically indexed wage increases, to put public spending in order, and to subsidize industries in crisis only when they have exhausted all other means of profitability.

The criticisms are made in a letter, leaked to the press today, from Mr Alan Whitmore, of Britain, head of the mission which has been reviewing the outlook, to Senator Beniamino Andreatta, Minister of the Treasury.

Mr Whitmore, writing after last week's devaluation of the lira and emergency rise in the discount rate, said he saw great difficulties ahead for Italy after two satisfactory years, unless certain basic tendencies were modified.

Inflation, around 20 per cent for 18 months, risked being

double that of Italy's trading partners for this and next year, and the deficit in the balance of payments—2.5 per cent of gross national product in 1980—was a cause of serious anxiety.

The team thought it was desirable to modify the mechanism of indexed wage increases at least to eliminate the impact of price increases caused by imports.

This should be accompanied by moderation in wage rises in new labour contracts, the removal of obstacles to higher productivity, more flexible use of labour and greater differentiation in salaries.

These are points which Senator Andreatta and employers' representatives are pressing the unions to accept, and it was assumed in political circles that the nominally confidential letter was leaked by his ministry.

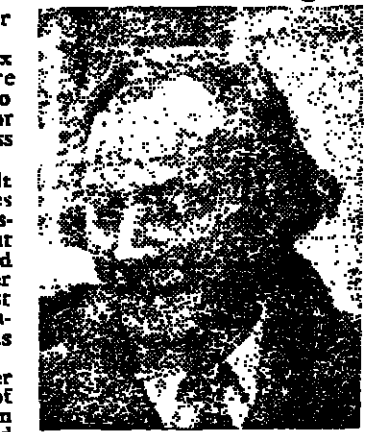
Mr Whitmore was, however, also critical of the Government's record in public spend-

ing, saying a big effort for containment was essential. He said that in the last six months about 27,000,000 lire (£11,840m) had been added to public spending obligations, or about 7 per cent of gross national product.

Much of this was the result of wage and pension increases allowed as the result of pressure from sectoral lobbies, but these only raised the likelihood of further demands from other groups. The Government must find the necessary determination to break this vicious circle.

Mr Whitmore found further worries in recent increases of allocation for industries in crisis, both in the public and private sectors. He stressed that allocations should be accompanied by measures to ensure a return to profitability in the long term, under conditions of international competitiveness.

The changes in economic policy which the Government



Mr Alan Whitmore: Real risk of new stop-go episodes.

proposed would give time for reflection. In the past, the cost of frequent stop-go policies had been high. The risk of new stop-go episodes was real, he said.

Pearson
move on
Faurey deal

By Catherine Gunn

S. Pearson & Son, the industrial, financial and publishing group, has instructed its accountants and solicitors to advise on any claims it may have arising from its £22m acquisition of Faurey Holdings from the National Enterprise Board last July.

Faurey, an engineering company, is believed to have fallen short of the revised £4m profit forecast made at the time of the acquisition for the year to December 31 1980, and may have lost money during that period. No one was available at the NEB to comment last night.

Mr Alan Whitaker, finance director of Pearson, when asked if Faurey had made a loss in 1980, said: "We could not have put out a statement like this if it had met their forecast."

Pearson will now wait for reports on Faurey from Deloitte, Haskins & Sells, its accountants, and D. J. Freeman, its solicitor, before deciding whether to take further action.

Faurey was acquired through Royal Doulton, a wholly-owned subsidiary of S. Pearson & Son, which offered £24m for the engineering company, beating a £19.5m offer from Hambros Bank. However, the price was reduced to £22m in August when it emerged that the NEB forecast of around £5m profit was over-optimistic.

Pearson prepared a revised profits forecast for Faurey of "not less than £4m" before expected redundancy costs of £500,000 for the year to the end of 1980.

2,000 jobs at risk from
Enkalon plant closure
in Northern Ireland

By Derek Harris

Commercial Editor
British Enkalon's nylon and polyester plant at Antrim, the largest remaining synthetic textiles factory left in Northern Ireland, could close with the loss of more than 2,000 jobs unless it gets government assistance.

British Enkalon, which is part of Akzo, the Dutch chemicals and textiles group, yesterday issued three months' protective notice to nearly 1,900 workers at Antrim. Other workers are already on notices due to expire in June.

Cutbacks in textiles, cycle manufacture and automotive engineering yesterday brought a further 800 redundancies. TI Raleigh is likely to close its Worksop, Nottinghamshire, cycle manufacturing plant, Crane Fruehauf's lorry trailer plant at Oldham, Lancashire, is to shut and 140 jobs will be lost at the Huntingdon factory of Silent Channel Products, motor mouldings manufacturers. Courtaulds is closing its Park Mill at Bolton, Lancashire, with the loss of 160 jobs.

Talks on possible emergency aid for British Enkalon were progressing, the Northern Ireland Department of Commerce said. The company, which has

been spending heavily on modernization, has had heavy trading losses for nearly six years.

The unfavourable trading environment for synthetic textile and carpet yarn is blamed particularly for the recession in the British textiles industry. Cheap imports, particularly from the United States, have also hit the company's sales.

In Northern Ireland the synthetic fibre industry was affected last year when polyesters operated in Carrickfergus, Co Antrim; Du Pont closed an acrylic fibres plant at Londonderry, Co Derry and ICI Fibres stopped production of polyester at Kilroot.

TI Raleigh, particularly affected by cheap imports and the strength of sterling, is looking at an alternative plan to reduce operations by half with a loss of 100 jobs. Two months ago 650 jobs were lost at the company's main plant at Nottingham.

The closing of its Crane Fruehauf plant at Royton, Oldham, will mean a loss of 325 jobs. The company blames the recession. It has suffered losses of £5m.

On Monday 3,500 Ulster tobacco workers employed at the Gallaher factories in Belfast and Ballymena, Co Antrim, will go on short-time working.

Both will go on a four-day week as a result of pre-budget cuts in the Government's tax increase on cigarettes and tobacco.

Tough line on steel aid
by EEC ministers

From Peter Norman

Brussels, March 27
EEC industry ministers agreed today they will not agree to any aid for the steel industry should be given only to companies engaged in restructuring that will lead to a drop in the Community's productive capacity.

But because of Italian resistance, they failed to set a deadline for the gradual phasing out of state aid.

Mr Gaston Thorn, president of the EEC Commission, said that the meeting of the council of ministers on the steel industry, which lasted until 4 am on Friday had made progress towards reaching a common viewpoint of member states.

Nobody was in favour of granting aid just to absorb losses, he said. Aid must be bound up with restructuring.

Mr Thorn made it clear that the Council and the council of ministers have a lot to do if a comprehensive steel policy for the EEC is to be concluded by the end of June. A code for state aids has still to be drawn up while a timetable will have to be worked out for winding-down aid.

Mr Thorn said he thought the convergence achieved in the meeting would help the steel companies to reach a voluntary pact. The EEC club of large steel concerns that accounts for 80 per cent of Community production is due to meet in Luxembourg on Sunday and

Monday to discuss the issue after making some progress towards agreement last weekend.

The ministers concluded that production capacity must be reduced and that any new capacity should be compensated for by the simultaneous closure of equivalent plants in the same country or group of countries, or in the framework of an agreement between companies.

They decided that no aids should be given to companies that increased capacity for specific products where there was no growth in demand.

It was agreed that the Commission should have access to better information on the steel industry so that it could have a fuller insight into restructuring, the workings of aids and investment programmes.

Mr Thorn said that the governments realized that steel prices had to rise if the industry was to be put back on its feet. European prices are between 10 and 15 per cent below those in Japan and the United States.

The Commission was given the go-ahead to act more strictly to prevent companies from charging unrealistically low prices.

Privatization moves: The British Steel Corporation yesterday took the first steps towards privatization of some of its activities by recasting three of its operations into limited companies.

BSC gets
\$23m order
from Korea

From Jacqueline Rediff

Seoul, March 27
The British Steel Corporation has secured a contract worth more than \$23m (£10m) to supply steel for the Pusan subway in South Korea, in the face of fierce competition from the Japanese.

This was an unexpected triumph for British Steel, considering Japan's proximity to Korea and the fact that it is the world's largest steel producer.

The BSC will supply 54,600 tonnes of structural steel at an average of \$407.329 a tonne. The total contract value, including financial charges, is \$23,934m and 85 per cent of the order will be financed by a loan from a British consortium of banks, headed by Lloyds.

A report yesterday by a "bank spokesman" saying that all staff will be sent home without pay if the strike gets worse, causing the banks to lose touch with customers' accounts, has been denied by the federation.

Fed chief reiterates
need for restraint

From Frank Vogl

Washington, March 27
The recent fall in American interest rates should not be viewed as indicating any relaxation in the central bank's efforts to control the money supply, Mr Paul Volcker, chairman of the Federal Reserve system said. He said the Fed intended monetary restraint to be strong, visible and sustained.

Interest rates are continuing to weaken in line with evidence of a general softening in economic activity. The department of commerce announced today that the composite index of leading economic indicators fell in February for the third consecutive month. The index is widely viewed as a useful guide to the economy's future short-term performance.

But recent declines in the index have been modest, with a fall of 0.3 per cent on a seasonally adjusted basis in February and falls of 0.6 per cent and 0.1 per cent in January and December respectively. This does not suggest that the economy is heading for a recession as sharp and as severe as in the second quarter of 1980.

Mr Volcker told the budget committee of the House of Representatives that it would be misleading to suggest that the cuts in interest rates had resulted from changes in Fed

policies. The Fed was determined to reduce inflation by means of tight money policies, he said.

Mr Anthony Solomon, president of the New York Federal Reserve Bank, said in a speech this week that big budget cuts were necessary and the Fed alone could not succeed in defeating inflation. The very same message was delivered by Mr Volcker to Congress today.

Congress had to cut spending "unflinchingly", he said, and it simply could not do enough in terms of reducing public spending. Firm action on this front, together with consistent monetary policies, would reduce inflation expectations, which would in turn reduce interest rates and wage demands.

Wage increases around the current United States level of 10 to 12 per cent were not consistent with bringing down the inflation rate, he said. Mr Volcker was doubtful if restraint could be attained before raising expectations of greater price stability.

Money supply. United States money supply M-1 declined \$1,500m in the week ended March 18, to a seasonally adjusted \$240,600m. The M-1 aggregate fell \$2,100m to \$263,700m from a revised \$365,800m.

PRICE CHANGES

Commodity	Unit	Price
agile Am Corp	13p to 69p	
trikeley Exp	13p to 31p	
stobell	22p to 42p	
stock J'son	10p to 77p	
K Electric	11p to 21p	

Commodity	Unit	Price
leisure	15p to 34p	
leisure	5p to 13p	
leisure	7p to 15p	
leisure Ben	8p to 27p	
leisure	12p to 58p	

Commodity	Unit	Price
Bank	13p to 161p	
Bank	15p to 493p	
Bank	16p to 325p	
Bank	15p to 363p	
Bank	11p to 28p	

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Rising income and real capital growth

13.7%
income*

26.2%
total growth*
(capital plus income)

*ANNUAL AVERAGE GROWTH RATES SINCE 1975

As the table shows, GT Income Fund has consistently and substantially outperformed inflation. Over the past 1, 2, 4 and 6 years, the growth in the value of units combined with income have far outstripped growth in the Retail Price Index and the Financial Times Industrial Ordinary share index.

% increase over the past years

	1	2	4	6
Increase in value (dividends reinvested)	+32.7	+43.5	+141.9	+304.2
Increase in income	+5.9	+27.6	+80.0	+115.5
Increase in RPI	+15.5	+35.6	+67.1	+140.7
Increase in FT index	+20.8	+11.3	+58.9	+279.2

(Various periods to 31st December 1980)

GT Income Fund

The Fund is invested mainly in UK equities and has succeeded in combining increasing income with good capital growth. Over the last six years, the total return (capital & income) has risen by 26.2% p.a. and dividends have increased by an average of 13.7% p.a. Inflation means that high income today is of no use unless it is even higher tomorrow. GT Income Fund aims to invest in companies producing dividends that should continue to grow, coupled with prospects for above-average capital growth.

Beating Inflation

The record of the Income Fund shows that the growth in income and capital has beaten inflation over the past 1, 2, 4 and 6 years.

It is not surprising, therefore, that GT Income Fund ranks as one of the top performing trusts of its kind.

Although past performance is no guarantee of future success, it is a useful guide to determine trends.

Facts about GT Unit Managers

Part of the GT Management Group, which manages £650 million, GT Unit Managers looks after about £40 million of unit trust funds and has an outstanding investment record.

GT Unit Trusts consistently rank among the top performers and, in the past three years GT has twice achieved the distinction of managing the best performing Unit Trust in the country.

GT UNIT MANAGERS

Last year, GT's Income Fund was the second best performer in its sector (per Plannet Savings) and we believe that its prospects for growth in 1981 remain above average.

GT Funds	GT Fund Performance % gain		
	1 year	2 years	4 years
GT Far East & General	+91.6	+108.5	—
GT Income	+32.7	+43.5	+141.9
GT Capital	+41.1	+82.3	+164.2
GT International	+46.4	+61.5	+132.4
GT US & General	+48.1	+72.5	+68.4
GT Pension Exempt	+53.0	+43.9	—
GT Japan & General	+35.1	+13.0	+64.9

Performance Figures: Plannet Savings

*Source: Plannet Savings (various periods to 31st December 1980)

How to invest

Unit trusts are a long-term investment. They are not suitable for money which may be needed at short notice.

The aim of the fund is long-term capital growth and increasing income.

The price of units and the income from them may go down as well as up.

To invest in the GT Income Fund, please fill in the form below and send it to us with your cheque.

General information

Trustee: Lloyds Bank Limited, 71 Lombard Street, London EC3P 3BS. The Trust is authorised by the Department of Trade and Commerce as a "wider range" investment. The offer of units on 24 March was £2.75 and estimated gross yield 4.1%. Applications will be acknowledged and confirmed by the Trust within six weeks. An initial charge of 2% is included in the offer price. An annual charge of 0.5% V.A.T. of the capital value of the Fund is deducted from the gross income of the Fund to defray management expenses. Subject to this annual charge and net of V.A.T. income is allocated to unitholders each 27 April and 27 October. (First payment in response to this advertisement will be 27 October). Units may be sold back at any time at the bid price ruling on receipt of your request and payment will normally be made on seven days. Prices of units and yield are quoted in the National Press and following an initial purchase, they may be bought in multiples of five. Commission of 1% is paid to recognised agents on the initial charge. Rates are available on request. The managers are GT Unit Managers Ltd, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2. Registered in London No. 903877. Members of the Unit Trust Association. This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

GT INCOME FUND
GT Unit Managers Limited, Park House, 16 Finsbury Circus, London EC2M 7JD, 01-628 8131.
I/We wish to invest the sum of £ (in pounds) (in pence) in the GT INCOME FUND and the price ruling on the day you receive this application.
I/We enclose a cheque payable to GT Unit Managers Ltd.
An account cannot be opened in the name of a minor but an application may be made by an adult and the account designated, i.e. "A" or "B" with the minor's initials.
(In case of joint applications all names and addresses must be given on a separate sheet.)
Full Christian Name(s)
BLOCK LETTERS PLEASE (please write Mr, Mrs, Miss or Title)
Surname
Address
T 28/3

"1980 was another record year for Nationwide. Mortgages approved exceeded £1,000 million for the first time."

Sir Herbert Ashworth, Chairman of Nationwide Building Society, addressed the Annual General Meeting of members of the Society in London on Friday 27 March.

The following are points from Sir Herbert's speech:

- New loans totalled more than £1,000 million in 1980. Over 66,000 loans were made: half of these to first time buyers and over a third on property over 50 years old.
- Record investment receipts of £2,188 million in 1980.

- Nationwide assets increased by a record £719 million to £4,654 million (+18.3%). At the year end reserves had risen to £148 million.

- Over 1 million new investment accounts were opened in 1980 and there are now nearly 3 million Nationwide members.

Nationwide Building Society

Please call in at any of our 1,000 branches or agency branches for your free copy of our 1980 Report and details of our services for investors and borrowers.

Head Office: New Oxford House, High Holborn, London WC1V 6PW.
Funds exceed £4,650 million. Authorised for investment by trustees. Member of the Building Societies Association.

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE I

Taxation

Personal pensions—act now

Since the Finance Act 1980, the retirement annuity or personal pension plan has become one of the most potent tax planning devices available. It can now be used for CIT planning, school fees, house purchase, partnership funding, life assurance and health insurance investment planning, pure income tax saving as well as, of course, providing a lump sum and income at retirement.

You can now invest up to 173 per cent of net relevant earnings into a personal pension plan and, in effect, receive income tax relief at your highest rate on the premium. The rules which govern when you actually get the tax relief for a premium are full of traps; partly this is because we are in a transitional period when the set of rules is disappearing and a new set has already come into force. The position is not helped by the fact that the legislation itself is rather obscure and that the Inland Revenue's interpretation has changed recently.

The basic rule is that tax relief

on premiums is normally available against assessable income in the year that the premium is paid. However, it is possible under the new rules to pay a premium and then to have the tax relief applied against the assessment for a previous tax year.

So, if you make an election in writing, you can ask for a premium paid in 1980-81 to be relieved against the assessable income of the previous year, that is 1979-80. But, if you had that is 1979-80. But, if you had no net relevant earnings whatsoever in the previous tax year, you can elect to carry back the relief to the year before that. So a premium paid in 1980-81 could be relieved against income for 1978-79, if there were no net relevant earnings at all assessable in 1979-80. Then there are the old rules that are being phased out, and this is where the Revenue's change of mind has taken place. The position is now as follows. Where a premium is treated as having been paid before April 5, 1981, then a taxpayer can elect to receive the tax relief on the pension

contributions against the earnings in a year that is still "open", which can be as far as six years back.

This could be useful if it allows you to take tax relief on a year earlier than 1979-80. The rule says that you can receive tax relief against the earlier year if the contribution is made within six months after the date on which the tax assessment for the relevant year becomes final and conclusive.

The new carry-back provisions can be used in conjunction with these old rules but only where the six-month period ends on or after April 5, 1981. If, for example, an assessment for 1978-79 becomes final and conclusive on March 1, 1981, so long as the election to carry back is made by August 31, 1981, and a premium is paid before April 5, 1982, the tax relief can be carried back to the 1978-79 tax year. Until Hambro Life discovered this change in the Revenue's attitude a few weeks ago, it was generally believed that April 5 was an absolute dead-

line for relating back to that year, which was still "open". Remember, the personal pension plan is for the best way of creating a fund for retirement. You get relief on your initial investment into the fund. The fund is not subject to income tax or capital gains tax, which is that it is likely to perform substantially better than most direct investments; and when you start drawing pension at any time between 60 and 75 or by stages in twelve, you receive a substantial tax-free lump sum plus income for the rest of your retirement. Furthermore, in months one life office another has announced that the fund although usually not more than £5,000. This means the funds are not locked until retirement age; and a variety of other use you can afford to be less inhibited about the level of miums you pay because can, in an emergency get hands on the money earlier

A nine-point checklist

- Any non-pensionable earnings can be a basis for making a personal pension plan premium; so this is the investment that could take a lot of the point out of trying to evade tax on a part-time job.
- Check whether you have any net relevant earnings for past years where you have not used up your full entitlement to pay personal pension plan premium. Remember, you can go back six years from the year in which you are treated as having made the investment. So for a premium you paid this year, you can go back 1974-75 and for a premium you pay next year but elect to have treated as if you paid before April 6 you can also go back to 1974-75.
- You should try to get the tax relief in the year that you are likely to be paying the highest marginal rates of tax.
- In general, if your marginal rates of tax are about the same for each available year for which you can make a premium payment, you should probably make the election for the earlier year rather than the later one; you might even be in line for a repayment of tax.
- If you have some net relevant earnings and your main financial priority is pure life insurance cover, consider using personal pension plan term assurance because of the tax relief. It is probably the cheapest form of insurance you can buy.
- If you are taking out (or already have) life cover under a personal pension plan, consider arranging it so that it can form part of your CIT planning. The benefits can be paid free of CIT to anybody. In any event, it is probably better to have the policy written in trust, even if the intended beneficiary is your husband or wife, because the proceeds would then be received without having to wait for probate.
- Under no circumstances pay a premium on which you cannot get tax relief—you will not be able to carry forward unrelieved premium to a year (as used to be the case). Normally, it is probably worth keeping some potential relief hand and not the too many payments that are difficult and expensive to undo.
- If you do decide that you need to draw on your pension fund by way of the "loan back" facility, try make sure that it is for a flying purpose where you tax relief on the loan an remember that at some you will have to pay back loan.

Danby Bloch c
Raymond Godfr

Maintenance payments

Why the tax rules need an overhaul

For years the single parent lobby has campaigned against the complicated formulae used by the Inland Revenue in taxing maintenance payments. People just do not understand the rules, they can do nothing to claim her full £200 a month.

His first problem—which the tax man has resolved to his own satisfaction but clearly not Mr Stock's—is the status of the financial agreement between him and his wife. Married man's allowance can be claimed in the year after separation only if the maintenance payments are voluntary.

As far as Mr Stock was concerned the agreement he signed, drawn up by two sets of lawyers, witnessed and registered as a legal document was a legally binding one. It is very common for solicitors to draw up such agreements between parties as soon as they split, in order to achieve the most tax-efficient method of support.

But Mr Stock's tax office has given him the married man's allowance—treating his agreement as a voluntary one. No one has explained this important point to Mr Stock himself, who is clearly under the impression that his maintenance agreement is, for tax purposes, a legally binding one.

From the decision of the tax authorities dramatic fiscal consequences flow. His payments would cost him less net if he could deduct tax at the standard rate, rather than have the married man's allowance. Under the tax rules you cannot have both.

send me a notice of codification which gives me a married person's allowance for the year after separation. I hear nothing of any tax allowance for a dependent child. My wife, meanwhile, can do nothing to claim her full £200 a month.

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Mr David Stock: in a muddle.

If he should divorce, as he plans to do, the fact that the Inland Revenue seems to be treating his agreement as a voluntary one has severe repercussions. He will lose even his married man's allowance, since this is given only for voluntary payments when separated. If you are divorced, there is no relief on voluntary payments at all. He would get no tax relief on his his £200 payment a month.

Clearly, the answer is that Mr Stock should establish the binding nature of his agreement either by pursuing it with the tax office or by changing the agreement. But that will not help his wife and son, who will then receive their £200 minus £60, and there is apparently no way of reclaiming the money

from the Inland Revenue it are domiciled outside United Kingdom.

Fortunately, the Tu authorities do not tax maintenance, otherwise there really is a problem, since it is a double taxation agree between the two countries. She might have to pay to what she received.

There is no way, either. Mr Stock can claim any allowance, even though he fully supporting his son. (benefit, the weekly cash fit that replaced the old eye of family allowances plus tax reliefs, is paid only to it with custody of children in this country.)

There remains the residual child tax relief of £100-£16 the 1981/82 tax year (depending on age and irrespective of the number of children), which can be claimed in some circumstances by those supporting offspring abroad. But this being phased out entirely the tax year 1982/83.

Mr Stock's problem created only because he was to look after his wife and child in the most efficient fashion are complicated because wife lives overseas, but ignoring that and looking at the muddle of the United Kingdom tax system you are led to the conclusion that in a divorce the system of tax maintenance desperately needs simplification.

Margaret Drummond

National Savings

Buy before rates are cut

At last the Department of National Savings has come clean about the interest rate cuts planned for both the investment account ("invac") of the National Savings Bank and the replacement of the nineteenth issue of National Savings certificates.

The vague announcement in the Budget that the invac rate would be cut on May 1 has been given substance. The reduction will be the widely predicted drop from 15 per cent to 12 per cent. Investors who get their money in by next Tuesday will earn 15 per cent on it for the month of April; investments made in April do not qualify for interest until May.

Once interest rates began to ease it was only a matter of time before the nineteenth issue, paying 14.7 per cent gross to basic rate taxpayers, and more to higher rate payers, would be withdrawn. Well, now we know. It goes on May 9 to be replaced by the less attractive twenty-first issue yielding 9.02 per cent (12.9 per cent gross).

If you have not yet bought your full treasury (maximum holding is £5,000) of the nineteenth issue, do so quickly. It is a very attractive offer and although it is more than likely that it will not be withdrawn until May 9, the Saturday before its successor goes on sale, there is no guarantee of this. (Note: The second issue of granny bonds was the twentieth issue to go on sale).

Investor's week

Chancellor stirs the market

It has been well said (which I say it again) that share buyers are already counting the profits and dividends to be made as the FT Index of 488 industrial shares has surged to a peak, the FT All-Share index is nudging its high and even the FT Index of 30 leading stocks rose this week from 500.9 to 521.3.

One more burst of buying and we will be back where we were on May 4, 1979, when the newly elected "Iron Lady" carried it to a record 558.6.

At this point, opinions diverge. Fools, trying to be wise, confuse the stock market with economics and both with politics. Shares rise strongly when the economy is turning, and start falling as the economy climbs upward. It may be, as the Chancellor's critics aver, that the economy will recover only weakly.

So it might, but for the moment all markets have to decide is whether Sir Geoffrey

Howe and Mr Nigel Lawson, the Financial Secretary, are right in identifying an upturn in the next few months. On this particular point nearly every observer says they are right. If so, the time to worry about the present upswing is mid-summer or the autumn.

By then we will decide whether inflation is still coming down or starting to go up, whether or not the Chancellor is being panicked into a vote ceding Budget which could be bad news for gilt-edged; and whether or not industry has scrapped so much capacity in the slump that a low ceiling has been put on its profits when demand picks up.

We will also know something else. The £1,000m of index-linked Treasury stock 1996, inflation proofing without tears, was oversubscribed. The Government may launch more such stocks. Now institutions, pension funds, insurance companies and the like may hit £11,000m to invest in the future this year. Apart from gilt-edged,

they can spend it on foreign shares as well as United Kingdom equities and property. The Prudential Corporation with a will last year.

Unless the supply of conventional gilt-edged dwindles, the market of inflation proof stocks will almost surely siphon money away from ordinary shares. I say almost, because the Government could yet public spending or suck in a lot of National Savings.

Meanwhile, we listened to the Chancellor, smiling at Wa Street's eight-year high as took company news in its stride. Lucas Industries, in vehicle and fashionable aeroplanes turned profits of £123m in pre-tax losses of £27.47m in the half year to January, but the directors maintained the dividend in the hope of better times. The shares danced.

Coates Bros, in printing and chemicals, thinks it has touched bottom after a fall but it can see no sign of upturn. The dividend was maintained, and up went the shares. Arthur Bell, the "Afor" group, whose profits and paid more shares rose with retail shares, little bit tickled the shares in Rothmans International, the tobacco group, and for a time Royal Bank of Scotland, rode high on suggestions of a counter bidder in Standard Chartered.

Savoy shares were jolly in the hope that Trusthouse Forte might succeed in buying the group. But there is always something going the other way. Insurance were upset by huge underwriting losses from Prudential and Eagle Star.

Peter Wainwright

PERSONAL INVESTMENT AND FINANCE 2

OFF of HEYBRIDGE HEATH

EXCUSE ME, SIR,
I WOULD BE
A SPONSOR...

TO MY RUNNING IN
THE LONDON MARATHON...

SURELY... IF
YOU'LL BECOME
A SPONSOR TO
MY OVERHEADS...

FOR MOTHER'S DAYS

Property bonds

Building on firm foundations

On the face of the recession, property as an investment has held up remarkably well, showing a steady growth throughout. The general view of property and fund managers is that this steady growth will continue with no dramatic ups or downs in the foreseeable future.

The property market—at the "prime properties"—has suggested off the combination of high interest rates and recession. Instead it has focused property values and rental with.

It is the familiar story of demand for prime properties far outstripping the supply that has held up values, with the result that the yields have risen from their historically low levels. Yields on first class properties and offices, at best, are around 3.5 per cent and per cent respectively.

Financial institutions, such as insurance companies and pension funds, still have vast amounts of cash ready to commit to the property market. As investment fund managers use it, if you put a prime property on the market you are backed over in the rush of potential buyers.

For this reason, fund managers do not expect to see yields on prime properties fall in the accompanying fall in property values—from their present levels.

While the market for first class properties remains exceptionally strong, the "second class" properties—offices which are not in particularly good locations—have weakened over the last

year. The extent of the weakness depends on the properties. The best secondary properties, which almost classify as "prime properties", have in general, escaped this setback.

Industrial property, which enjoyed popularity a couple of years ago, has fallen from favour as far as property bond managers are concerned. Unlike prime shops and offices, the yields have risen slightly over the past year but as in the secondary property market in general, the market is patchy. While some areas, especially in the South-east have held up, it is in the North where industrial properties have been hardest hit by the recession.

Rental growth, the other factor affecting property values, has held up surprisingly well. However, although rents have been rising, down and fund managers have few illusions about an immediate pick up.

Managers generally believe that the property market, unlike in 1973/4, has come through this recession unscathed. In the last recession some property investors had their fingers badly burnt. This time round, though, the market is based on much more solid principles and is generally immune to the levels of short-term interest rates.

If you are looking to invest in property, there is no need to rush in order to make the most of any turn around in the market. The stability of the market in recent years means it has not hit a low from which to rise. Instead, according to fund managers, the market will continue to see a steady rise.

The rental side of the market is also strong. The rental side of the market is also strong. The rental side of the market is also strong.

For instance, how else could you have a small interest in a diversified property portfolio? Nor would you be likely to want to invest through overseas stock exchanges by yourself, although, of course, unit trusts do offer that facility.

One reason why unit-linked policies are becoming so popular is because in good times the profits emerge much more quickly than with the traditional profit-sharing method, where (despite the introduction of terminal bonuses) profits are "smoothed" over a significant period. The latter means that even if times are bad there is probably enough in the kitty to maintain the value of the investment, although not necessarily, if there is a sharp drop in long-term interest rates which looks as though it might continue for some time.

With the enormous growth of unit-linked business, who takes the risks and who enjoys the profits?

The first point to establish is that a life office's profits from unit-linked business are not quite the same as the profits distributed in the form of bonuses with traditional policies. With the latter, the premium for a profit sharing policy is significantly higher than for a comparable non-profit policy. That provides some of the profit for distribution to the policyholder as bonus, and then, of course, there are the investment profits.

With a unit-linked policy the premium is "loaded" only for administrative expenses and for a modest profit, none of which can be enjoyed by the policyholder. He gets his profit (he hopes) from the rise in the value of the units to which his policy is linked, resulting from skilful investment by the investment managers.

With a traditional business, it is customary for a proprietary office to allocate more than 90 per cent of the distributable profit to the profit-sharing policyholders, with the shareholders taking the balance. Although there are variations, it is usual for the whole of the profits, however derived, to be apportioned in this way.

With a mutual office, since there are no shareholders, the whole of the distributable profits are shared among profit-sharing policyholders, which is one of the reasons why mutual offices are so well placed in most "league tables" showing profit-sharing policy maturity values.

With unit-linked business, however, the position is different. With a traditional office, such as Hambro Life, the shareholders receive all the distributable profit from the business, because there are no profit-sharing policyholders.

Many "household names" have entered the unit-linked sector, such as Legal and General, Sun Alliance and Sun Life. Here, normally a separate company has been set up for the unit-linked business and it is the shareholders who take all the profit. With Vanbrugh Life, for instance, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Prudential, it is the Prudential's shareholders, and not the Pru's profit-sharing policyholders, who will share in its profits.

Remember that the setting-up costs of these unit-linked operations have been met by the shareholders. No profit-sharing policyholder can say that part of the profits which should have come his way have been spent on setting up the unit-linked side of the business.

If, therefore, you have a personal pension policy from Sun Life Group, where you can switch from profit-sharing to unit-linking and vice versa, at will, you will share in the profits when "profit sharing", but not when you are "unit-linked".

With a mutual life office, however, the profit-sharing policyholders will ultimately benefit from the whole of the profit from the unit-linked business, even if it is conducted through a subsidiary company. Here, I am thinking of such offices as Standard Life, London Life and Equitable Life.

Companies like these set unit-linked business as being ultimately a profit-making area which will benefit the profit-sharing policyholders. That is fair enough because, effectively, the profit-sharing policyholders have put up the money for the operation and will lose if it should fail.

Life assurance

Mutual offices and unit-linking

Unit-linked life assurance looks as if it will continue to be a popular form of investment. Not only are there significant tax advantages compared with direct investment in the underlying securities, but in many cases individuals themselves would not otherwise be able to engage in that kind of investment.

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With a traditional business, it is customary for a proprietary office to allocate more than 90 per cent of the distributable profit to the profit-sharing policyholders, with the shareholders taking the balance. Although there are variations, it is usual for the whole of the profits, however derived, to be apportioned in this way.

With a mutual office, since there are no shareholders, the whole of the distributable profits are shared among profit-sharing policyholders, which is one of the reasons why mutual offices are so well placed in most "league tables" showing profit-sharing policy maturity values.

With unit-linked business, however, the position is different. With a traditional office, such as Hambro Life, the shareholders receive all the distributable profit from the business, because there are no profit-sharing policyholders.

Many "household names" have entered the unit-linked sector, such as Legal and General, Sun Alliance and Sun Life. Here, normally a separate company has been set up for the unit-linked business and it is the shareholders who take all the profit. With Vanbrugh Life, for instance, a wholly owned subsidiary of the Prudential, it is the Prudential's shareholders, and not the Pru's profit-sharing policyholders, who will share in its profits.

Remember that the setting-up costs of these unit-linked operations have been met by the shareholders. No profit-sharing policyholder can say that part of the profits which should have come his way have been spent on setting up the unit-linked side of the business.

If, therefore, you have a personal pension policy from Sun Life Group, where you can switch from profit-sharing to unit-linking and vice versa, at will, you will share in the profits when "profit sharing", but not when you are "unit-linked".

With a mutual life office, however, the profit-sharing policyholders will ultimately benefit from the whole of the profit from the unit-linked business, even if it is conducted through a subsidiary company. Here, I am thinking of such offices as Standard Life, London Life and Equitable Life.

Companies like these set unit-linked business as being ultimately a profit-making area which will benefit the profit-sharing policyholders. That is fair enough because, effectively, the profit-sharing policyholders have put up the money for the operation and will lose if it should fail.

You must apply now to qualify for the 1980/81 tax concessions
OFFER CLOSES ON APRIL 4th 1981

Pioneer

High Income Bond

Minimum

12.4%

Tax Free p.a.*
equal to 17.71% gross

Maximum

14.5%

Tax Free p.a.*
equal to 20.71% gross

Plus your original investment returned in full at the end of 4 years

How the Bond works
Pioneer's High Income Bond is designed so that you may enjoy the benefit of the tax relief currently allowed on life assurance premiums. The Bond is a combination of five policies. Four single premium policies and one ten year annual premium policy which is a "qualifying" policy for tax purposes.

Higher Rate Tax Payers
The structure of the Pioneer High Income Bond also provides advantages for higher rate tax payers. As an example the following table illustrates the high rates of return available to someone aged 65 years

Additional Life Assurance Benefits
In the event of your death whilst the Bond is in force you will receive the full amount of your original investment.

Age at entry	Income p.a. Net	Gross
Up to 59	12.4	17.71
60-64	12.5	17.85
65-69	12.7	18.14
70-74	12.9	18.42
75-79	13.2	18.85
80-84	13.7	19.57
85 and over	14.5	20.71

For basic rate taxpayers

The Pioneer Guarantee
The safety and guarantee on your investment is provided by Pioneer Mutual Insurance Company Limited whose origins go back to 1839. Pioneer is a member of the Life Offices Association and has 44 offices throughout the country serving over 1.5 million policyholders.

Life Assurance Premium Relief
The annual rates of return illustrated in this advertisement assume basic rate tax at the current figure of 30% and Life Assurance Premium Relief at 17.5% on the first annual premium and 15% each year thereafter. Any future legislation changing these rates will in turn affect the net income payments, but only marginally. You are entitled to enjoy this tax benefit provided that your total gross annual life assurance premiums, under this arrangement and any other qualifying policy, do not exceed £1,600 or 10% of your income, whichever is the greater. In the case of a married couple the limit is shared equally between them.

How to Invest
Simply complete the proposal form and send it with your cheque and documentary evidence of your age. In due course you will receive confirmation of acceptance. The minimum investment is £500. These high rates on offer are dependent on your investment running the full term and earlier encashment is not available. You should therefore consider very carefully that a four year term meets your requirements. If you are in doubt about any aspect you should consult your financial advisor or telephone Pioneer Mutual direct at the telephone number listed in the application.

This advertisement is based on Pioneer's understanding of present law and inland revenue practice. The Company reserves the right to adjust the benefits payable in respect of any levy under the Policy Holders Protection Act 1976.



Pioneer Mutual Insurance Company Limited
Pioneer House, 16 Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool L2 0NY. Telephone: 051-428 6655

Form of proposal for a Pioneer High Income Bond (To be completed by the Proposer and Life to be Assured)

Surname
Mr/Mrs/Miss
Christian
Names
Address
Occupation
Date of Birth
Investment £
Case should be made payable to Pioneer Mutual Insurance Co. Ltd.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland. Registered No 72873 England Registered Office 16 Crosby Road North, Waterloo, Liverpool L2 0NY

LARGER PROPERTY BOND FUNDS

pany	Fund allocat.	Min. invest.	Percentage price increases based on offer prices with net income reinvested to March 1 over 2					
			£m	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
oy Life	438	750	4.3	15.4	39.8	59.1	103.8	157.7
days Life	25	1,000	4.1	10.6	33.4	58.8	—	—
non	31	500	5.8	12.1	28.1	44.8	78.9	154.3
mbro Life	246	1,000	4.7	11.5	31.8	49.2	85.3	—
Samuel	22	1,000	4.8	10.2	40.6	61.1	83.3	122.9
Life	96	1,000	3.1	2.5	20.5	48.1	103.7	189.9
Chant Investors	35	500	4.5	14.2	38.8	56.5	103.9	122.0
Life	23	500	3.8	7.7	25.5	41.9	80.2	—
erty Growth	30	1,000	6.2	9.9	24.9	41.6	54.8	84.8
to & Prosper	40	1,000	6.4	10.8	29.1	44.7	77.8	—
burgh Life	65	1,000	6.5	13.4	33.8	51.6	86.8	—

Source : Planned Savings.

Source: Planned Savings.

Sylvia Morris

Schroders

Schroder Australian Fund

A major opportunity for capital growth down under

Australia—a land of vast potential
Australia possesses a wide range of natural resources including base metals, precious metals and energy. Take just three examples, the country is currently 70% self-sufficient in oil and also has massive reserves of shale oil which may prove to be a new and major source of fuel oil. During the second half of this decade, it has vast reserves of coal, much of it steam coal, a keenly sought after commodity and finally, existing proven reserves of uranium account for 18% of the Western world's known deposits and it is thought that additional large deposits almost certainly exist.

A new fund
This new fund was formed through the utilisation of the Australian and International Trust Limited, a publicly quoted investment trust which was incorporated in 1981 and managed by I. Henry Schroder Wagg & Co. Limited.

Schroder Australian Fund
The principal investment aim is to secure capital appreciation. Many of the investments are in those areas of the Australian economy which are not available to investors in the United Kingdom. A large part of the portfolio will be invested in natural resources, although the managers will also invest in those industrial sectors which are likely to benefit from the expansion of the primary sector during the 1980's.

Flexibility
We can offer investment through single premium insurance bonds where this may suit the investors tax situation. Remember that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. You should regard your investment as long term.

Financial Planning
Through Schroder Financial Services we can offer to the larger investor a wide ranging personal financial planning service.

3% Introductory Discount
The offer price of units is 55.2p with an estimated gross yield of 1.96%. Units purchased on or before 3rd April 1981 will be allocated at 53.5p. Thereafter the discount will apply until 10th April 1981 based on the ruling offer price.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Units in the fund may normally be bought or sold on any business day at prices quoted in a current national newspaper. Applications will be considered on receipt of your instructions and confirmation will be sent to you within 2 weeks. Shares are initially charged at 5% of the price of units. A half-yearly charge of 1% is deducted from the price of units. A half-yearly charge of 1% is deducted from the price of units. A half-yearly charge of 1% is deducted from the price of units.

advertisers on applications bearing their stamp:
Income Distribution of net income to be made (a) yearly on 31 March and (b) 30 September.
Managers: Schroder Unit Trust Managers Limited (Member of the Unit Trust Association), 40 St Martin's Lane, London WC2N 4EL. Regd. Office, 200 Cheapside, London EC2V 6NS. England No. 155622.
Trustee: Standard Bank Trust Company Limited.
This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

The Schroder Group manage assets exceeding £3,750,000,000

To: Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd, Enterprise House, Leamwood Road, Portsmouth PO1 2YW. (Telephone 0705 27733) wish to invest (minimum £500) £.
In the Schroder Australian Fund at the price of 53.5p. A cheque is enclosed payable to Schroder Unit Trust Managers Ltd.
Please allocate income/accumulation units. (Circle as applicable)

Would like more information on Schroder

Name Exchange Scheme ☐ Surname (check letters please)
First name(s) ☐
Address ☐
Date ☐

Regular Savings Single Premium Insurance Schemes ☐

Financial Planning ☐

Signature (write the last name and first name)

Schroders
SCHRODER UNIT TRUST MANAGERS
Member of the Unit Trust Association

The new Henderson Global Technology Trust.

Excellent capital growth prospects.

Over recent years advances in technology have been steadily improving the health, comfort and productivity of human life. And now more than ever we look to technology for further advances. We look to seismic technology and recovery techniques to locate and produce the gas and oil we need. In computer technology to improve the productivity of offices and factories, to electronics to improve communications, to agricultural technology to multiply yields and eradicate disease, and to medicine to lengthen man's productive life span.

Historically high technology companies and those that finance them have prospered and there is little doubt that technology is the growth investment of the 80's. The electronics sector of the Stock Market, for instance, contains many of the all-time top performing shares and there is enormous reason to expect continued growth in the forefront of technology to continue to flourish for many years to come.

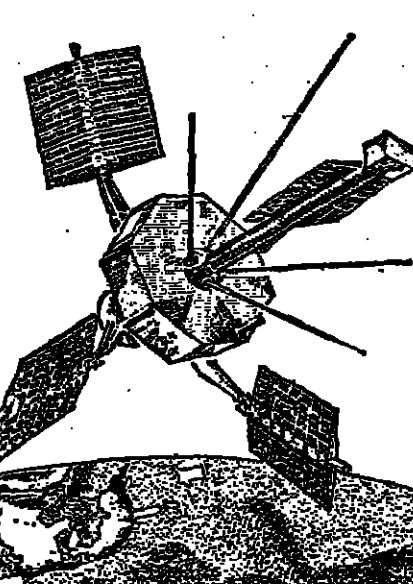
International spread.

Henderson Global Technology Trust has been formed specifically to invest in companies throughout the world which are exploiting technological innovation. The trust will invest in companies involved in such fields as semiconductor, electronic instrumentation, computer hardware and software, computer graphics, laser sensors, spectrometry, data transmission, satellite communication, defence electronics, seismic detection, pharmaceuticals, micro-biology and medical equipment.

Since companies of this type have a tendency to reinvest their profits to finance further growth and development, it is expected that the trust will produce a relatively low gross yield, initially estimated at 0.08%. The short term sacrifice of income should serve however to boost the long-term opportunities for capital growth.

Income is paid half-yearly on 23rd February and 23rd August. The first distribution is paid on 23rd February 1982.

Your chance to invest in tomorrow's world. Today.



Management expertise.

During nearly 50 years of managing funds that total approximately £2,000 million, Henderson Administration have established a reputation for outstanding investment performance—not only were they nominated as unit trust managers of 1980 by the Daily Express and the Investors Chronicle but the Sunday Telegraph recently stated "It is no coincidence that the likes of... Henderson... appear in the top bracket year after year. Their investment managers have shown that they are the best in the field, certainly over the last five years or so, and there is no reason to suppose they will not continue to lead the way."

It is planned that much of the portfolio of Henderson Global Technology Trust will be invested in the USA and Far East—areas in which because of excellent contacts on the ground Henderson have achieved particularly successful investment results in the past.

To invest in the new Henderson Global Technology Trust at the fixed launch offer price of 50p simply return the application form below with your remittance, either by direct order or your professional adviser, to arrive not later than 16th April 1981.

You should remember however that the price of units and the income from them can go down as well as up. And you should regard an investment as long term.

Additional information.

An initial charge of 5% on the assets (equivalent to 4.76% of the issue price) is made by the managers when units are issued. Out of the initial charge, the managers pay commission to qualified intermediaries; rates are available on request. The Trust does not provide for an annual charge of 1% (plus VAT) of the value of the Trust to be deducted from the gross income to cover administration costs.

Contract notes will be issued and unit certificates will be provided within six weeks of payment. To all units endowments unit certificates will be issued. Payment will normally be made within six weeks of payment. Unit Trusts are not subject to Capital Gains Tax; moreover a subscriber will not pay this tax on a disposal of his units unless his total realised gains in any tax year exceed more than £3,400. Dividends and interest can be paid daily in the Financial Times.

Trustee: William & Glyn's Bank Limited
Managers: Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited, 11 Austin Friars, London EC2N 2ED (Registered office)
Reg No. 836,263. A member of the Unit Trust Association.

TO: Henderson Unit Trust Management Ltd, Dealing Department, 5, Bayleigh Road, Hutton, Brentwood, Essex CM13 1AA 01-588 3622

I/We wish to buy _____ units in Henderson Global Technology Trust at the fixed price of 50p per unit (minimum initial investment 1,000 units).

I/We enclose a remittance of £_____ payable to Henderson Unit Trust Management Limited.

This offer will close on April 16, 1981, or earlier at Managers' discretion. After the close of this offer units will be available at the daily quoted price.

This offer is not available to residents of the Republic of Ireland.

SHARE EXCHANGE SCHEME
Our Share Exchange Scheme provides a favourable way to switch into this Unit Trust. For details please tick box or telephone Malcolm Cooch our Share Exchange Manager on 01-588 3622

Surname Mr/Mrs/Miss _____

Christian or First Name(s) _____

Address _____

Signature(s) _____ Date _____

(If there are joint applicants each must sign and attach name and address separately.)

Henderson
Unit Trust Management

John Drummond

EDITED BY MARGARET STONE

Alternative investment

Private buyer in the middle

Anyone buying ICI knows that the certificate he receives will be for shares in that company and no other. He will be told for any nasty surprises such as the discovery that the really owns shares in some bombed-out third division chemical company whose figures have been face-lifted by wily accountants.

In the case of alternative investment such problems of identity constantly arise and this is why the credibility of catalogue descriptions, particularly those of well-known auctioneers, is essential for confidence in the art market.

Dealers often grumble that auctioneers' descriptions are too flattering, tending to give the benefit of the doubt in borderline and other cases. Yet when a painting, for instance, is under-catalogued as "School of X" and dealers recognize it as by the master himself there is no rush to warn the auctioneer of his mistake.

Indeed, for some dealers to snatch a bargain from the nose of an auctioneer is the very spice of life.

The matter of auctioneers declining all responsibility for the accuracy of their catalogue descriptions is just one of the many unresolved issues that are crucial to the investor. Next in importance to the question of authenticity comes the scale of dealing costs, and here investors tend to be in grave danger of losing out.

The appointment of Mr Patrick Neill QC to mediate between the auctioneers and dealers over the question of the buyer's premium may prevent an acrimonious, expensive and damaging court case, but not necessarily help private investors.

If the compromise that

results from these discussions, as has been suggested, is to be that dealers will be bought off with a preferentially low rate of buyer's premium at the expense of private buyers (whose interests will not be represented anyway) then the auctioneers will be doing both themselves and private buyers much damage.

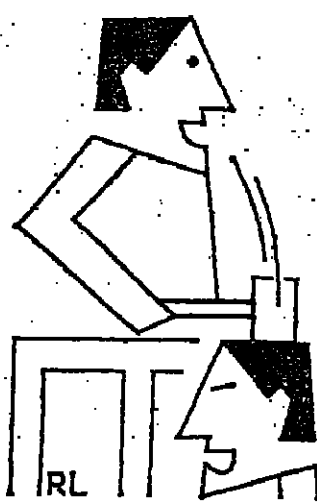
The domination of auctions in London by dealers has not so far improved the salerooms' image. Furthermore, the extraordinary success of the big salerooms in New York owes a great deal to the growing participation by private investors and collectors. They are often at a disadvantage to dealers from the points of view of expertise and time; to add a price disadvantage would be quite unacceptable.

In any case, the feelings of outrage expressed by dealers over the buyer's premium are quite misplaced since the only party that need have suffered was the vendor. For a dealer arrives at the price he is prepared to pay an auction by reference to what the retail market will stand.

If on the day before the imposition of the 10 per cent premium he was prepared to bid £10,000 for an object he should in theory have bid £9,000 on the day after the premium was imposed. His outlay would have been the same but the vendor would receive some 9 per cent less.

If dealers chose in effect to start bidding 10 per cent more than they had before, whose business can that possibly be but their own? The court case is really no more than an envious attack on the auctioneers who were apparently able to double their income at the stroke of a pen.

Another pressing matter of



great interest to investors when they come to sell is that of bidding agreements. The Auctions (Bidding Agreements) Act has always lacked teeth as well as good sense. Broadly speaking, it says you may not agree with anyone to refrain from bidding (and so depress the hammer) unless you notify the auctioneer of such an agreement in advance.

Quite why it should be legal to deprive the vendor of part of the value of his property, provided you let the auctioneer know you propose to do so, is by no means clear. It is the temptation to bid a price being paid at auction have given this problem a new twist. Bidding agreements can be good as well as bad for the vendor.

The Director of Public Prosecutions, in charging three dealers with their failure to register their agreement to bid in partnership for an Alinari bust they bought in 1979 for £150,000, is actually pursuing the good guys.

Although each dealer had

large resources none of them could sensibly go above £250,000-£600,000 for the bust individually. The pooling of their resources in this case is generally agreed to have resulted in a much higher hammer price than there would otherwise have been, to the great advantage of the vendor.

A case that would have tested the law to greater effect was one where three dealers, again each with considerable resources agreed to bid in partnership and bought a painting for £4,500 which is reasonable to assume they believed might have a much higher value since it was subsequently sold as a Holbein to an American museum for £250,000.

In this case the fact that those dealers, each able individually to pay a much higher amount, were not competing with each other may have reduced the hammer price to the great detriment of the vendor.

But dealers, particularly when they have made "discoveries", are understandably reluctant to let the cat out of the bag by registering a bidding agreement with the auctioneer who would naturally take it as a sign of special interest. Rightly or wrongly, dealers fear that many auctioneers would not be able to resist the temptation to raise the reserve against them once such interest had been declared.

Most of those involved in the market agree that the law as it stands is useless, yet a new law would need some ingenious drafting to take account of the present complexities.

Robin Duhay

The author is editor of The Alternative Investment Report.

Offers

Two new unit trusts are on offer this weekend. Henderson Unit Trusts Management has launched its Global Technology Trust, taking advantage of exchange control freedom to invest principally in Japan and the United States. Schroder Unit Trust Managers is backing Australia, a winning area last year with its new Australian Fund.

For those in search of income there is a choice between an equity fund, GT Unit Management's Income Fund, and an insurance contract with Pioneer Mutual Life's High Performance Income Bond.

Capital transfer tax tactics

My wife and I have made wills so that in effect the estate of the last survivor is left to our daughter. At today's rates it would attract some capital gains tax. Could we minimize this in the following way?

1. Each of us could give our daughter £2,000 for the previous tax year, this tax year, and on April 6 next. That totals £12,000.
2. She could immediately return these amounts to us in the instalment form given as an interest-free loan, repayable only on the death of the last survivor of my wife and myself from the estate of that survivor.



Readers' Forum

This specialist readers' service has been compiled with the help of Ronald Irving, John Drummond and Tony Foreman

Moreover, a sale might still be a good idea even if the mortgage is left intact, since the value of your estate will then have been "frozen" for capital transfer tax purposes.

The wife of a friend from Brazil tried to book two tickets for the theatre for Saturday, March 14. She had marked this date on her theatre brochure which she showed at the box office. Alongside the date March 14 was the theatre code "F13". By mistake she was given tickets for Friday, March 13 when in her haste she did not check the date on her ticket.

The error was not discovered until the morning of March 14 and I telephoned the box office for her at once. I was told that it was up to her to have checked the tickets were correct and there was a note on this effect on the envelope containing them. Is the theatre justified in refusing to replace the tickets? (JO, Putney).

Assuming the mistake was the fault of the box office clerk, the theatre has not complied with the lady's order for tickets for a specified date. In other words they have not fulfilled their part of the contract. The lady is entitled to the tickets she requires, the theatre has not drawn to her attention until after she had been given the tickets and after the contract was made. Hence it cannot form a term of the contract and is of no effect in law.

In any case, in so far as the notice on the envelope purports to excuse the theatre from liability for its own breach of contract, it is caught by the Unfair Contract Terms Act, 1977. It is extremely unlikely that a judge would uphold such a clause as being "fair and reasonable". Accordingly, the theatre should replace the tickets or refund their value.

Suppose I order a suit to be made to measure but later change my mind. Will I incur any financial liability assuming the tailor has not actually started it before being told to cancel? (P.J.G., Gloucester).

Strictly one's firm order has been placed for the suit and measurements taken, the consumer will be liable to pay the tailor his reasonable loss of profit on the suit, even if the tailor has not started to cut it or sewn a stitch.

Where the tailor has actually cut the material out and started sewing it, the consumer may find he also has to pay the tailor for the value of the material used and for the work done so far as to the loss of profit. This might come to almost the cost of the complete article.

In practice it should be possible to persuade the tailor to accept a smaller sum in settlement for the sake of goodwill. Even if he has cut out the cloth he will be obliged to mitigate his loss. For example, he may be able to use the piece of cloth for another order. Alternatively he may be able to sell the completed suit as a reject at a comparatively small price. In either case the customer should be given credit for whatever the tailor is able to salvage from the situation.

FINANCIAL NEWS

Stock markets

Interest rate hopes boost properties

Equities were quieter after the rally on Thursday, with the FT Index at 521.3, a 2.4 improvement for the day.

GI-edged dealers also reported a quiet day despite the arrival of the new City of Leeds

Takeover talk centred on David Dixon, the Leeds woolen cloth manufacturer, whose shares reached a new high of 130p, up 2p yesterday. Despite some evidence of profit taking at the end of the account, sellers were quickly absorbed. Dealers attributed the strength to the group's asset base.

script 50 133 per cent 2000, which started with a £1 premium on the £10 partly paid price. Longs saw some buying after hours which helped to push them up by 51 on the day while shorts saw no change after the announcement of the new rap. £1,000m 111 per cent Treasury 1985 at £96.50. The new index-linked Treasury 2 per cent 1996 was also oversubscribed as expected.

In the leading industrial stocks conditions were com-

paratively depressed after the previous days' activity. ICI slipped a couple of pence to 238p as did GKN to 17p and Tubes to 266p. But Lucas Industries continued to stride ahead after Thursday's figures with a 6p gain to 183p. BOC rose 3p to 27p, Grand Metropolitan 4p to 195p. Fisons showed one of the sharpest falls, losing 7p to 153p, while a bearish press report knocked 1p off Dunlop at 68p. Hawker Siddeley dipped 4p to 30p and Glaxo and Unilever were unchanged at 300p and 503p respectively.

Builders were a shade easier at the start but most ended unchanged, including Blue Circle Industries at 420p and Taylor Woodrow at 561p. Redland gained 2p to 186p.

Among the potential bid hopes, Henry's made an 8p advance to 95p while Royal Bank of Scotland lost 2p to 142p. Speculation added 8p to 187p to Boustead in plantations and there was an identical rise to 194p for Rank Organisation on talk of cinema and hotel sales. Dixon Photographic gathered more momentum and

rose 7p to 176p after a bro meeting with the chairman earlier in the week.

Rumours of a property valuation at per cental favourite Owen Owen ensu 13p advance to 161p but it bid hopes at Associated Le clipped 5p from the price 130p. Beshoff responded to recent results by jumping to 430p and Ricardo began ing saw a spurt for the reason of 15p to 49p. Energy was suspended at pending an announcement plans in America.

Bernard Matthews, the group, was boosted by 12 403p on a 24 per cent improvement and 180p sen added 5p to 77p with estimated results and a tained dividend.

Profit taking at Klein Benson after the 27p advance the price back 176p while among the cle banks Barclays at 383p National Westminster at were unchanged. Mid added 5p to 323p and 1p to the same price.

Mines were firmer with improved gold price in wake of worries over P, which added 5p to 45p while in the financials gained 3p to 476p and Gold put on 1p to 466p.

Equity turnover for 26 was £206,758 (number bargains 28,478). The active stocks, according to the Telegraph, were Bestobell, Rank Organisation, Land Secs, Haslemere, Istock Johnson.

Traded options: Con were dull and the numb contracts was average at 1.5p. Trading the with 161. Rascal came in 1 and Lough took 45 with while Commercial Union 105.

Traditional options: Calls produced in ICI, Asso, Braconit, Premier Oil, Bell, Braconit, and Bord and Tibury Contractors were arranged in Boots Brown and Jackson doubles in Marks and Sp and William Press.

Latest results

Company	Sales	Profit	Earnings	Div	Pay	Year's
Int or Fie	£m	£m	per share	pence	date	total
Callan (F)	7.42(9.37)	0.57(0.42)	(12.3)	(3)	—	(13.84)
Casaca (I)	10.4(9.86)	0.09(0.86)	0.73(0.03)	1.5(1.5)	19/5	(2.3)
Cope Allman (I)	51.6(59.6)	0.93(1.71)	2.62(9.16)	(1.79)	—	(4.59)
First Gurnsey (F)	—	0.03(0.02)	—	4.5(3.6)	22/4	4.5(3.6)
Fairview Ests (I)	11.7(13.4)	2.3(1.9)	7.5(10.8)	1.1(1.1)	11/5	(1.1)
Fleming (F)	23(1.9)	0.33(0.7)	9.6(3.9)	2.5(3)	22/5	3.5(3.0)
Louis Gordon (F)	14.5(15.09)	0.65(0.4)	0.85(0.19)	0.5(1.5)	22/5	0.5(1.5)
Hanger Int (F)	79.7(72.4)	0.57(2.7)	6.31(29.3)	(1.73)	—	(3.0)
Home Cts News (F)	10.6(9.9)	0.1(1.3)	7.47(24.7)	4.7(1.7)	18/5	6.6(5)
Isobrook (F)	2.3(2.5)	0.32(0.8)	—	3(3)	—	4.3(4.5)
Le Bas (F)	16.9(16.5)	0.7(0.24)	49.2(10.1)	0.9(0.9)	—	1.5(1.9)
Lister (I)	15.2(19.4)	0.7(0.14)	16.6(18.1)	4.5(4.5)	21/5	6(7)
Lyons & Sons (F)	5.6(5.8)	0.3(0.2)	—	2.25(2.25)	—	(1)
Maclean-G (I)	2.08(1.78)	4.73(3.83)	32.2(32.3)	4.7(3.74)	—	8.7(8.7)
M. Matthews (F)	43.7(24.5)	0.59(0.63)	—	1.76(1.6)	30/5	(4.8)
Midland News (F)	—	0.26(0.23)	—	0.1(0.1)	—	0.1(0.1)
Record Ridgway (F)	4.12(4.33)	0.1(0.22)	—	0.9(0.9)	16/5	(1.85)
Standard Industrial (I)	2.05(2.23)	0.085(0.044)	5.7(2.4)	(0.5)	—	(1.5)
W. Tysack (I)	14.7(15.1)	0.17(0.36)	14.6(14.6)	(0.37)	—	(0.37)
Wombwell (I)	2.97(3.72)	0.48(0.16)	—	—	—	—

Dividends in this table are shown net of tax on pence per share. Elsewhere in Business News dividends are shown on a gross basis. To establish gross multiply the net dividend by 1.428. Profits are shown pretax and earnings are net. — = loss; + = adjusted for scrip issue; — = adjusted for rights issue.

Cope Allman plummets into loss

By Peter Wilson-Smith
The recession, higher interest charges and redundancy costs dragged Cope Allman, the fruit machine to fashion group, into losses in the six months to December 31. The interim dividend has been passed and a final dividend will depend on second half results. The previous year's total was 6.55p gross.

At the annual meeting in November, Mr Louis Manson, the chairman, said first half profits would be no better than break-even. In the event Cope Allman lost £949,000 pretax compared with profits of £5.7m. Sales fell from £99.6m to £91m.

Capsaels, the 59 per cent owned packaging subsidiary, fared marginally better and has held the interim dividend of 2.14p gross and is promising a maintained final dividend. How-

ever, higher interest charges, lower demand (sales fell from £116m to £104m) and a policy of maintaining market share at the expense of margins left profits down from £857,000 before tax to £89,000 at the half-way stage.

The one bright spot at Cope Allman was the leisure division which makes and operates fruit machines and games. Profits before interest and central expenses rose from £2.8m to £2.9m and, although sales slowed before the Government announced in February increased stakes and prizes, business has recovered. Cope Allman pointed to increased demand for its £3.5m Capital spending will be about £18m but the group does not expect a further cash outflow in the second half.

Profits were struck after £600,000 of redundancy costs. Worldwide there were 1,300 redundancies in the first half and about 350 more in the second.

With no substantial improvement expected until after the end of the current year, Cope Allman is speeding up plans to reshape the group and may make some disposals.

Profits dip to £2.1m at Istock

By Our Financial Staff
Brickmaker Istock Johnson showed a modest improvement in the second half despite worsening trading conditions.

Pretax profits were down to £2.1m against £4.68m on sales of £57.57m compared with £53.04m. But the final dividend has been maintained at 4.2p gross, making total gross payment of 6.42p for the year.

Mr Paul Hyde-Thomson, chairman, said yesterday that considering the severe impact of the recession on the group's home and overseas markets, the trading profit of £5.3m was not a bad result compared with last year's £6.8m.

The group's trading profit before interest was up in the second half by 19 per cent over the first six months. At the interim stage Istock reported profits of £2.2 per cent at £851,000 and indicated that year-end results would be well down.

Interest charges increased by 50 per cent in the period to £32.5m against £2.1m on borrowings that had risen by £3m to £21m last June. They are now around £33m.

Mr Hyde-Thomson said that the fibres division had seen improved results

Shareholder calls on GRA chairman to quit

By Philip Robinson
A call for the resignation of Mr Jack Aaronson, chairman and chief executive since 1976 of greyhound and property group GRA Property Trust, was made by a shareholder at the group's annual meeting yesterday.

Mr Aaronson took the helm at GRA specifically to administer the scheme of arrangement with the group entered five years ago as an alternative to liquidation.

His resignation was called for by Mr Harold Winton, who has 7,500 shares and was at one stage heading a private consortium which wanted to buy the 26.4 per cent of GRA now held by ICI's Pension Funds Securities.

Mr Aaronson said: "At no time was an offer received in a form where this company had a duty or was able to consider it."

Mr Winton said he was in the process of a letter from European Ferries' chairman, Mr Keith Wickenden, which stated that the group had made an offer.

Mr Aaronson said: "At no time was an offer received in a form where this company had a duty or was able to consider it."

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WANKIE COLLIERY COMPANY LIMITED

(Incorporated in Zimbabwe)

DIVIDEND No. 113

The directors today declared an interim dividend No. 113 in respect of the year ending 31st December 1980. Dividend payable to shareholders registered in the books of the company at the close of business on 15th April, 1981. Dividend warrants will be posted on or about 15th May, 1981. The transfer registers in Zimbabwe, the United Kingdom and South Africa will be closed from 17th to 24th April 1981 inclusive.

Zimbabwe non-resident shareholders' tax at the rate of 20 per cent will be deducted from the dividend where applicable. Estimated results for the half-year ended 28th February, 1981, and the results for the previous year and corresponding previous half-year are as follows:—

	Half-Year ended 28.2.81	Half-Year ended 29.2.80	Year ended 31.8.80
SALES	28,281	29,280	318,80
	Tonnes	Tonnes	Tonnes
COKE	959 872	1 286 872	2 382 199
	101 177	125 900	235 168
UNAUDITED FINANCIAL RESULTS	5000's	5000's	5000's
Trading Profit	481	3 805	5 144
Net interest and dividends receivable	339	404	933
Profit Before Taxation	840	4 209	6 077
Taxation	—	1 460	1 790
Profit after Taxation	840	2 749	4 287
Add: Deferred taxation no longer required (see note 1)	10 900	—	—
Extraordinary Items:			
—Adjustment of taxation (see note 2)	11 740	2 749	4 287
—Profit on realisation of investments	1 341	—	192
	10 399	2 749	4 479
Less: Appropriation to general reserve	9 559	—	—
	840	2 749	4 479
Earnings per share	3.31 cts	10.85 cts	16.82 cts
Dividend per share	3 cts	4 cts	10 cts

This dividend is declared in the currency of Zimbabwe. Payments from the United Kingdom and South Africa will be made in the equivalents of the Zimbabwean value at the rates of exchange ruling at the close of business on 5th May, 1981.

Comments on Unaudited Financial Results
Sales of coal and coke were 25 per cent and 20 per cent respectively below sales for the equivalent period last year. Failure to achieve last year's level of sales is the sole reason for the fall in pre-tax profit. The shortfall was not due to any lack of demand for either coal or coke but was caused by industrial unrest and disruption of railway movements.

The company has applied to Government for the increase in local coal and coke prices to which it is entitled under the Coal Price Agreement with effect from 1st April, 1981. Providing this price adjustment is made timely, coal and coke is moved as presently expected by the railways, the board of directors believes that, notwithstanding the reduction in the interim dividend, the total dividend for 1981 can be maintained at the 1980 level.

Shareholders have been advised of the company's appeal to the Special Commission to revise tax assessments which raised an additional liability to income tax amounting to £2,300 in respect of the financial years from 1975 to 1980. Of the two issues involved, one was decided in favour of the Commissioner of Taxes and the other in favour of the company. As a result the additional amount payable by the company has been reduced to £1,341 and this amount is shown as an extraordinary item in the above presentation of the half-year's results.

The capital project to open a new open-pit mine has been approved by the board and by the Government. Substantial capital expenditure will be incurred. As the amount of £10,900 set aside for deferred taxation out of previous profits is no longer required, it has been brought back to general account, and after charging against it the taxation liability of £1,341 explained above, the balance has been appropriated to general reserve.

By order of the board
ANGLO AMERICAN CORPORATION
SERVICES LIMITED
Secretaries
Per: J. R. Parker
70 Somers Machel
Avenue Central,
P.O. Box 1108,
Salisbury, C.A.,
Zimbabwe.
London Office:
40 Holborn Viaduct,
London EC1P 1AJ.

27th March, 1981

Briefly

Hawker Siddeley: H Siddeley Switchgear, a s sary company within Hawker Siddeley Group taken a 40 per cent in worth about £84,000 in S. Power Switchgear of A S. Power Switchgear of A S. and S. has been m under licence, products two Hawker Siddeley co. led.

Merger cleared: Pro acquisition by Kanara Hol of Renwick Group is not referred to Monopolies

Deanson (Holdings): Des is buying Wilkes Bus Forms from James Wilke £50,000 cash. Net asset of Forms, £16,000 and a net loss before tax, £11

Lloyds Bank: Lloyds Bank raised its stake in Lloyds Scottish to about 50.2 per of the issued capital or 38.75p gross.

Nash-Reliant: The Court sanctioned the necessary re ition in the share own account of I. P. Nash Se ties and this reduction become effective on April Application will then be a stock exchange for per son to deal in the ordi shares of Reliant Motor an Unlisted Securities. Ma beling on the USM exo to commence on April 10.

MARKET REPORTS

Commodities

SPR - Barley, wheat, rye, oats, corn, soybeans, cotton, rice, sugar, coffee, cocoa, rubber, oil, gas, and other commodities. Prices are listed in pence per tonne or per bushel, depending on the commodity. The market is generally stable, with some fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

MAIZE - French and German maize prices are listed. French maize is trading at 110 pence per tonne, while German maize is at 115 pence per tonne.

WHEAT - French wheat is trading at 110 pence per tonne, while German wheat is at 115 pence per tonne.

COFFEE - Arabica coffee is trading at 110 pence per tonne, while Robusta coffee is at 115 pence per tonne.

COCOA - Cocoa beans are trading at 110 pence per tonne.

RUBBER - Rubber prices are listed in pence per tonne. The market is generally stable, with some fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

OIL - Crude oil prices are listed in pence per barrel. The market is generally stable, with some fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

GAS - Natural gas prices are listed in pence per therm. The market is generally stable, with some fluctuations in oil and gas prices.

Discount market

For much of yesterday's session, discount houses had been stuck on their "ceiling" of 12 per cent for secured money, while inter-bank money held levels between 12 and 13 per cent. But, as it became clear that the authorities had overdone the help and that money was going to be left in the system over the weekend, the rate fell away sharply. Houses ruled off anywhere between 5 and 10 per cent.

Foreign exchange report

The dollar continued to make fresh gains at the expense of other major currencies yesterday, although closing a shade below best levels.

The crisis in Poland put pressure on the D-mark, which at one time gave up more than 3 pence to the dollar. The German currency closed at 2.16, compared with 2.110 overnight, helped during the afternoon by higher West German trade surplus statistics. Sterling, in the meantime, retreated in very thin trading conditions, plunging to \$2.2190, before closing 225 points lower at \$2.2300, compared with \$2.2375 on Thursday. The pound's trade-weighted index, after opening at 100.2, recovered to 100.7 at noon, but retreated again at the final calculation of 100.3 (overnight, 100.9). The decision by France to raise the Treasury bill discount rate by a half-point to 12.5 per cent had little effect on the French currency, which closed on 4.9905 (4.9543).

Sterling: Spot and Forward

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Effective exchange rate compared to 1978, was 180.4 down to 155.5

Indices

Bank of England	March 27	March 28
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0
100	100.0	100.0

Dollar Spot Rates

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Money Market Rates

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Euro-Deposits

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Wall Street

New York, March 27 - Stock prices on the New York Stock Exchange closed sharply lower. The Dow Jones Industrial Average dropped 108.58 to 947.78, shaving its gain from the week to 1.58 points. Declines led advances 1,011 to 493, as turnover slowed to 46,920,000 from 60,370,000 yesterday.

Oil and blue chips led ground. Mobil lost 1 1/2 to 66 1/2, Gulf Oil 1 1/2 to 32 1/2, Exxon 1 1/2 to 39 1/2, and Standard Oil of California 1 1/2 to 35 1/2. Superior Oil 3 1/2 to 22 1/2. Arctic Marathon Oil added 1/4 to 24.

Among blue chips, active IEM fell 1 1/2 to 61 1/2. General Motors 1 1/2 to 35 1/2, Ford 1 1/2 to 31 1/2, and International Paper 1 1/2 to 49 1/2. Alcoa added 1/4 to 62 1/2.

Twentieth Century-Fox was hard hit, losing 1 1/2 to 55 1/2 in heavy trading. Daimler-Benz was hard hit, losing 1 1/2 to 55 1/2 in heavy trading. Daimler-Benz was hard hit, losing 1 1/2 to 55 1/2 in heavy trading.

Other Markets

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

US commodities

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Canadian Prices

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Cotton

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Soybeans

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Wheat

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Corn

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Rice

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Sugar

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Cocoa

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Rubber

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Oil

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Gas

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Authorized Units, Insurance & Offshore Funds

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Authorized Units

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Insurance

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

Offshore Funds

Market rates (pence)	March 27	March 28
New York	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
London	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Frankfurt	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Paris	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Amsterdam	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Brussels	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Geneva	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50
Zurich	123.40-123.50	123.40-123.50

[illegible]

